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Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report on the meetings of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development

I. Introduction

1. At its thirtieth session, in 1997, the Commission on Population and Development authorized the Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions.[1] In 2006, in resolution 2006/1 on its methods of work, the Commission requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for the annual sessions of the Commission. The Commission also stressed the importance of making written reports on the meetings of the Bureau.[2] In accordance with resolution 2006/1, the Bureau held three meetings between October 2007 and mid-January 2008 and may convene others before the forty-first session of the Commission resumes in April 2008. The three meetings of the Bureau held so far took place in New York on 16 October and 11 December 2007 and in Sofia on 14 and 15 January 2008. The third meeting, hosted by the Government of Bulgaria, which would have normally been held before the end of 2007, was postponed by decision of the Bureau to January 2008.

2. The first meeting of the Bureau, on 16 October 2007, was attended by Ivan Piperkov (Chairman), Hossein Gharibi, Fredrick Matwang'a and Pauline Eizema. Alicia Melgar participated in the meeting via teleconference. Present at the second meeting, on 11 December 2007, were Mr. Piperkov (Chairman), Mr. Gharibi and Ms. Eizema, while Ms. Melgar participated via teleconference. At the third meeting on 14 and 15 January 2008, Mr. Piperkov (Chairman), Mr. Matwang'a and Ms. Eizema participated. The Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and a representative of the United Nations

* E/CN.9/2008/1.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 5* (E/1997/5), para. 52.

[2] Commission on Population and Development decision 2005/2.

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Population Fund (UNFPA) were present at all meetings of the Bureau. The Secretary of the Commission participated in the meetings held in New York.

3. The present report summarizes the discussions of the Bureau at those meetings as well as the conclusions reached and the recommendations made.

II. Summary of the deliberations of the Bureau

A. Organization of work for the forty-first session of the Commission

4. The Bureau reviewed the organization of work for the forty-first session and found it acceptable.

B. Keynote speakers

5. At its thirty-eighth session, in its decision 2005/2, the Commission welcomed the format of inviting keynote speakers to the sessions of the Commission and requested the Bureau to make the necessary arrangements for their participation and to inform members accordingly. In accordance with that decision, the Bureau decided that four keynote speakers would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme "Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development" and that each speaker would be allotted an hour to make a presentation and have an interactive dialogue with members of the Commission. The Bureau selected Mark Montgomery, Eduardo Moreno, David Satterthwaite and Helen Zille as keynote speakers. Mr. Montgomery, Senior Associate at the Policy Research Division of the Population Council and Professor in the Economics Department of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, will focus on the topic "Urban growth and poverty". Mr. Moreno, Chief of the Global Urban Observatory of the Monitoring System Branch of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Nairobi, will focus on the topic "Improving the lives of urban slum-dwellers". Mr. Satterthwaite, Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Environment and Development, will speak on the topic "Urbanization and internal migration: their relevance for sustainable development". Ms. Zille, Mayor of Cape Town and former Minister of Education in the Western Cape province of South Africa, will address the issue "Urban governance, lessons learned and challenges ahead: the case of Cape Town". As has become customary, the Bureau recommended that the working group be adjourned during the presentations made by keynote speakers.

C. Participation of relevant United Nations entities in the Commission on Population and Development

6. The Bureau noted that the topic of the forty-first session was relevant for a number of United Nations entities, such as UN-Habitat and the United Nations University. Thus, the Bureau requested the secretariat to encourage those organizations to participate in the Commission's session and to invite them to consider organizing side-events during the session. As for other sessions of the Commission, the possibility of UNFPA organizing a side-event was welcomed.

D. Communication of the Chairman with members of the Commission

7. The Bureau requested its Chairman to send a letter to the members of the Commission underscoring the need to have technical representatives attend the forty-first session, that is, specialists in the area of population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development. The letter would also provide guidance to members of the Commission regarding the items under which statements could be made and would outline the relevance of the various items on the agenda of the forty-first session. Information about how to have access to preliminary versions of the documentation for the session would also be included. The letter might also explain the importance of considering ways of strengthening the links between the functional commissions and the work of the Economic and Social Council.

E. Relationship of the Commission on Population and Development with the Economic and Social Council

8. The Bureau took note of the contribution made by Mr. Piperkov, Chairman of the Commission on Population and Development, to the panel discussion of the Chairpersons of the functional commissions on the topic "Working together to promote the goals of decent work and full employment for all", which was held in Geneva on 10 July 2007, during the coordination segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. Mr. Piperkov's presentation to the panel stressed the importance of considering population issues to inform the debate on decent work and full employment, particularly in regard to the effects of changing age distributions on the size of the labour force and the interrelationships between international migration and labour force trends.

9. Mr. Piperkov reported on his participation on behalf of the Commission in the meeting between the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the chairs of the functional commissions, held in Geneva in July 2007. The main purpose of that meeting was to discuss how the functional commissions could contribute to the work of the strengthened Council, particularly to the annual ministerial review and the biennial development cooperation forum, both of which were conducted within the high-level segment of the Council's substantive session. At the time of the meeting, the Council had not yet established a multi-year thematic programme for the annual ministerial review. The representatives of the functional commissions noted that, since several commissions had already established multi-year work programmes, it would not be possible to align their work programmes with the themes adopted for the annual ministerial review. Nevertheless, since it was expected that the Council would establish the themes of the review at least two years in advance, the functional commissions would consider how best to contribute to that work.

10. The Bureau was informed of the meeting that would be convened in New York on 29 January 2008 between the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council and the chairs of the functional commissions to discuss the various ways in which the functional commissions might contribute to the annual ministerial review and the development cooperation forum. The Bureau considered several options to address the implications of Council reform for its work. As a first step, the Bureau decided to invite the President of the Council to make a presentation to the Commission, at

its forty-first session, on the new mandates that the Council has undertaken and the importance of having the functional commissions support the annual ministerial review and the development cooperation forum. The Bureau took note of the special theme selected for the review in 2008, namely, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development", and remarked that the Commission could make an important contribution to the discussion of that theme on the basis of its own special theme for the forty-first session. Therefore, the Bureau requested that its Chairman make a statement during the annual ministerial review in July 2008.

11. The Bureau considered other ways to engage the members of the Commission in providing relevant input for the annual ministerial review. Noting that the theme for the review in 2009 would be "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health", the Bureau suggested that a new item be added to the draft agenda for its forty-second session, namely, "Debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the annual ministerial review theme and to the development cooperation forum". Under that item, members of the Commission would be invited to make presentations on their own experience regarding the relevance of population issues for public health. A format similar to the voluntary country presentations made at the annual ministerial review could be considered for this new agenda item. The debate under the new item would provide useful input for the review, which would be transmitted via a statement by the Chairman of the Commission. Although it remained to be seen how the development cooperation forum would develop, the possibility of providing inputs for it should also be considered under that item.

12. In view of the above, the Bureau noted that it would be best if the person chairing a session of the Commission would be the same person who represented the Commission during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, including during the annual ministerial review. A way to make this possible was to be explored. If it were not feasible, the Bureau recommended that the newly elected Chairperson meet with the previous Chairperson to be briefed on issues to bring to the attention of the annual ministerial review.

13. In sum, the Bureau requested its Chairman to transmit to the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council the following suggestions: (a) that the President of the Council be invited to address the Commission at its forty-first session; and (b) that the Chairperson of the Commission be allowed to make a statement at the annual ministerial review in July 2008. The Bureau further suggested that the agendas of future sessions of the Commission include an item focusing on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review and to the development cooperation forum.

F. Special theme for the forty-third session of the Commission

14. The Bureau recalled the Commission's decision 2007/1, in which the Commission decided that the special theme for its forty-second session, in 2009, would be "The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals". The Bureau

took note of the need to establish a multi-year work programme for the Commission and discussed the possible options for 2010.

15. The Bureau noted that the Commission had last considered health, mortality and their interrelationships with development in 1998. It was therefore timely to consider that topic again in 2010. The Bureau further noted that health and mortality issues figured prominently in the Millennium Development Goals and that the General Assembly was due to review in 2010 the achievement of the goals set in the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit Outcome. The Bureau therefore recommended that the theme for the Commission's forty-third session, in 2010, be "Health, morbidity, mortality and development".

G. Resolutions and decisions

16. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting (a) a decision on the draft agenda for the forty-second session; (b) a decision on the theme for its forty-third session, in 2010; (c) a resolution on the special theme of the forty-first session, namely, "Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development"; and (d) a resolution on the work programme of the Population Division.

17. As for previous sessions, the Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-first session of the Commission to discuss issues that might result in resolutions or decisions. The working group should begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session of the Commission. The Bureau also recommended that the Chairperson of the Commission distribute initial drafts of resolutions and decisions to facilitate the deliberations of the working group and requested the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to prepare those drafts after consultation with UNFPA. The Bureau further requested that the Chairperson's drafts be made available to members of the Commission and the regional groups three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-first session of the Commission.

H. Briefing for members of the Commission

18. The Bureau recommended that the Director of the Population Division organize, about a month prior to the resumption of the forty-first session of the Commission, a briefing for delegations on the status of documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.

19. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the forty-first session in order to facilitate the preparation of statements by delegations. The Bureau endorsed the posting on the Internet of advance unedited versions of those documents in English.

I. Work programme of the secretariat in the field of population

20. The Bureau noted that the work programme of the Population Division responded flexibly to the changing needs of Member States and stressed the

importance of maintaining a comprehensive approach to population and development issues. The Bureau observed that the last time the Commission had adopted a resolution on the work programme of the Population Division was in 2004, and it was therefore time to review and update it. Hence, the Bureau suggested that the Commission consider at its forty-first session a resolution on the work programme of the Population Division.

J. Conclusions and recommendations

21. **The Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development met three times, in New York on 16 October and 11 December 2007 and in Sofia on 14 and 15 January 2008. The conclusions and recommendations resulting from those three meetings are summarized below.**

22. **The Bureau recommended the adoption of the draft organization of work for the forty-first session of the Commission.**

23. **The Bureau decided that four keynote speakers would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme "Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development".**

24. **The Bureau recommended that the President of the Economic and Social Council be invited to address the Commission on the new mandates the Council had undertaken and the importance of having the functional commissions support the annual ministerial review and the development cooperation forum.**

25. **To reinforce the contribution of the Commission to the work of the Council, the Bureau suggested that the draft agenda for the forty-second session include a new item entitled "Debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the annual ministerial review theme and the development cooperation forum".**

26. **The Bureau suggested that the Chairperson of the Commission make a statement at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008.**

27. **The Bureau recommended that the special theme for 2010 be "Health, morbidity, mortality and development".**

28. **The Bureau recommended that a working group be established at the start of the resumed forty-first session of the Commission to discuss issues that might result in resolutions or decisions. The working group should begin its work on the afternoon of the first day of the resumed session of the Commission.**

29. **The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting (a) a decision on the agenda for the forty-second session; (b) a decision on the themes associated with a multi-year work programme and on a theme for the forty-third session, in 2010; (c) a resolution on the special theme of the forty-first session, namely, "Population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development"; and (d) a resolution on the work programme of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.**

30. **The Bureau requested that the Population Division, after consultation with UNFPA, prepare for the Chairperson of the Commission initial drafts of**

resolutions and decisions that might facilitate the deliberations of the working group. The Bureau requested that the Chairperson's drafts be made available to members of the Commission and to the regional groups at least three weeks prior to the resumption of the forty-first session of the Commission.

31. **The Bureau recommended that the Director of the Population Division organize, a month prior to the resumption of the forty-first session of the Commission, a briefing for delegations on the status of documentation for the session, the organization of work and the resolutions and decisions likely to be considered by the Commission.**

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Commission on Population and Development
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Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

World population monitoring, focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its decision 2006/101, the Commission on Population and Development decided that the special theme for its forty-first session would be population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development. The present report provides the basis for the Commission's deliberations.

The report reviews trends in and prospects for urban and rural population growth and changes in the population of cities. It discusses the relative contribution of natural increase and the combination of rural-urban migration and reclassification to the growth of the urban population. It considers the relative importance of different types of internal migration and describes the implications of population distribution for urban and rural dependency ratios. It documents the impact of urbanization on poverty reduction and reviews current knowledge on differentials in access to services and demographic behaviour in relation to urban or rural residence, giving particular attention to outcomes for the urban poor. The report also documents major policy developments in regard to population distribution. This comprehensive review underscores the importance of urbanization for economic growth and human well-being, concluding that urbanization's positive aspects should be leveraged while working to prevent or minimize its ills.

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I. Introduction

1. The distribution of humanity on the Earth's surface has always responded to the opportunities that different territories provide. After the invention of agriculture, the availability of arable land largely determined the places where most people settled. The practice of agriculture also permitted the accumulation of food surpluses and the differentiation of productive activities that led to the emergence of more complex settlements generically identified as "cities". In modern history, cities have played key roles as centres of government, production, trade, knowledge, innovation and rising productivity. The changes brought about by the industrial revolution would be unimaginable in the absence of cities. The mechanization of production made necessary the concentration of population. Rapid industrialization was accompanied by increasing urbanization. In 1920, the more developed regions, being the most industrialized, had just under 30 per cent of their population in urban areas. As industrialization advanced in the developing world so did urbanization, particularly in Latin America, where 41 per cent of the population was urban by 1950. In Africa and Asia levels of urbanization remained lower, although the urban population increased markedly, particularly in Asia. Between 1920 and 2007, the world's urban population increased from about 270 million to 3.3 billion, with 1.5 billion urban dwellers added to Asia, 750 million to the more developed regions, just under 450 million to Latin America and the Caribbean and just over 350 million to Africa. These changes foreshadow those to come. Between 2007 and 2050, the urban population is expected to increase almost as much as it did from 1920 to 2007: 3.1 billion additional urban dwellers are expected by 2050, including 1.8 billion in Asia and 0.9 billion in Africa. These powerful trends will shape and in turn be shaped by economic and social development.

2. Urbanization has been driven by the concentration of investment and employment opportunities in urban areas as well as by the transition from low-productivity agriculture to more productive mechanized agriculture, which has produced labour surpluses in rural areas. Productive activities in industry and services cluster in cities. By one estimate, 80 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) is generated by urban areas. As cities attract businesses and jobs, they become magnets for migrants seeking better opportunities and they bring together both the human and the entrepreneurial resources to generate new ideas, innovations and increasingly productive uses of technology. In countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), for instance, 81 per cent of patents are filed by applicants residing in urban regions.[1] Cities also facilitate social change, particularly through the educational and cultural opportunities they provide. Thus, in virtually every country, the transition to lower fertility rates started and has advanced farther in urban areas.

3. At the macro level, there is a positive correlation between per capita income and level of urbanization. Rising urbanization is also positively related to increases in the proportion of GDP generated by industry and services as well as with the proportion of the labour force working in those sectors.[2] Countries that have

[1] *OECD Territorial Reviews: Competitive Cities in the Global Economy* (Paris, OECD Publishing, 2006).

[2] David Satterthwaite, "The transition to a predominantly urban world and its underpinnings", International Institute for Environment and Development, Human Settlements Discussion Paper Series, 4 September 2007.

undergone long periods of poor economic performance tend to be the least urbanized. Countries with higher levels of urbanization tend to have higher per capita incomes, more stable economies and stronger political institutions. Nevertheless, there is reason to believe that urbanization per se is not the driver of income growth. At low levels of development, the association between level of urbanization and income per capita is weak.[3] Countries in Africa, for instance, tended to experience sluggish economic growth from 1960 to 2004 even as their levels of urbanization rose. In Asia, where many countries had levels and rates of urbanization similar to those in Africa, economic growth has been rapid. Africa and Asia are the least urbanized major areas of the world. These observations suggest that urbanization may be a necessary but not a sufficient condition to sustain economic growth.

4. All the evidence indicates that people benefit from living in urban areas. Average urban incomes are generally higher than those in rural areas. Urban dwellers also have better access to a variety of services, including education, health, transportation, communications, water supply, sanitation and waste management. Because of economies of scale, it is more efficient and cheaper to provide such services to large and geographically concentrated populations than to populations scattered over large rural areas. Furthermore, access to services tends to be better in larger urban agglomerations than in small cities or towns.

5. Despite its many positive facets, urbanization is not without its ills. Large cities, in particular, are prone to suffer from environmental contamination stemming from traffic congestion, the concentration of industry and inadequate waste disposal systems. Cities also tend to make demands on land, water and natural resources that are disproportionately great in relation to their land area or their population, whose high average income results in high rates of consumption. Although the concentration of population and economic activity in cities is at the root of these problems, persistent disparities among city dwellers mean that poor people bear the brunt of the negative aspects of urbanization. Because income inequality in the cities of developing countries is stark, the numbers involved are large and growing. At the world level, the rate of growth of the urban poor (those living on no more than $1 a day) has surpassed that of the urban population at large. Because of high housing costs, poor people in cities often have little choice but to live in crowded slums, where water and sanitation facilities are inadequate. According to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) most recent estimate, 840 million people lived in slums in 2005. In 2004, over 600 million urban dwellers lacked access to improved sanitation and 180 million lacked access to an improved water source.

6. The immediate consequence of poor living conditions is poor health. Thus, malnutrition and child mortality rates are higher among slum-dwellers than among other city-dwellers. In addition, slum-dwellers also exhibit lower levels of educational attainment and higher fertility than other urban dwellers, and they are more vulnerable to environmental disasters and pollution. Nevertheless, in most developing countries rural populations have worse living conditions and fare worse in terms of health and mortality than slum-dwellers. Furthermore, poverty is still largely concentrated in rural areas, where 75 per cent of the world's poor live. Hence, although urbanization is not by itself a cure to humanity's ills, it is a process that is crucial in addressing them.

[3] David E. Bloom and Tarun Khanna, "The urban revolution", *Finance and Development*, September 2007.

7. The continued urbanization of the world population may be necessary to ensure sustainable development. Between 2007 and 2050, the urban areas of the developing world are expected to absorb an additional 3.1 billion people while the overall population will grow by just 2.5 billion people. In 2008, the 3.4 billion urban dwellers in the world live on barely 3 per cent of the Earth's land area, while the livelihoods of today's 3.4 billion rural dwellers depend mainly on cropland, which accounts for 12 per cent of the world's land area. Burdening agricultural areas with the additional 2.5 billion people expected to live on Earth by 2050 hardly seems sustainable. Cities, where wealth, infrastructure and know-how are already concentrated, are in a better position to adapt to growing populations. By concentrating producers and consumers, businesses and workers, polluters and resource users, urban settlements make it easier to manage and regulate all actors effectively and equitably so as to address or, better still, prevent the problems arising from urbanization.

8. Faced with the numerous opportunities and challenges associated with urbanization, many Governments have consistently considered their population's spatial distribution a concern. As of 2007, 85 per cent of Governments expressed concern about their pattern of population distribution, a percentage that has changed little since the 1970s. Acting on that concern, many Governments have adopted measures to reduce or reverse rural to urban migration. Most of those measures have had little success, largely because individuals have powerful incentives to move to areas where the chances of improving their standard of living are high. Migrants in cities generally do better than people staying in rural areas, and their remittances are an important source of income for the relatives they leave behind. Evidence suggests that urbanization has done more to reduce rural poverty than to reduce urban poverty.[4] Although urban areas account for an increasing share of the poor, the large majority of the poor still live in the rural areas of developing countries. Therefore, strategies to improve the living standards of all must combine policies to promote rural development with those to improve the lot of poor urban dwellers by improving service provision, raising their educational levels, improving transportation, improving access to health services and family planning, strengthening the regulation of land use and facilitating the acquisition of land titles. By gravitating to towns and cities, rural migrants, including the poor, gain access to opportunities unavailable in their communities of origin and are more likely to contribute to economic growth. A faster pace of urbanization, especially if generated by the economic dynamism of urban settlements and supported by the right policies, is therefore likely to reinforce the overall reduction of poverty and should not be hindered.

II. Levels and trends in population distribution

A. Urbanization and growth

9. In 2008, half of the world population is expected to live, for the first time in history, in urban areas. Yet major disparities remain in the level of urbanization attained by different countries and regions (see table 1 and figure I). The transformative power of urbanization took effect earlier in today's more developed

[4] Martin Ravallion, "Urban poverty", *Finance and Development*, September 2007.

regions, and they have reached high levels of urbanization, surpassing 80 per cent in Australia, New Zealand and North America. Europe is the least urbanized major area in the developed world, with 72 per cent of its population living in urban areas. Among the less developed regions, Latin America and the Caribbean has an exceptionally high level of urbanization (78 per cent), higher than that of Europe. Africa and Asia, in contrast, remain mostly rural, with 38 per cent and 41 per cent, respectively, of their populations living in urban areas. Yet half of the urban population in the world lived in Asia in 2007. Europe had the second highest share at 16 per cent.

10. Over the coming decades, the level of urbanization is expected to increase in all major areas, with Africa and Asia urbanizing more rapidly than other major areas even if their expected rates of urbanization are lower than they have been in the past (see table 1). Nevertheless, by mid-century, Africa, Asia and developing Oceania are expected to have lower levels of urbanization than the more developed regions or Latin America and the Caribbean. Overall, the world population is expected to be nearly 70 per cent urban in 2050. At that time, most of the urban population will be concentrated in Asia (54 per cent) and Africa (19 per cent).

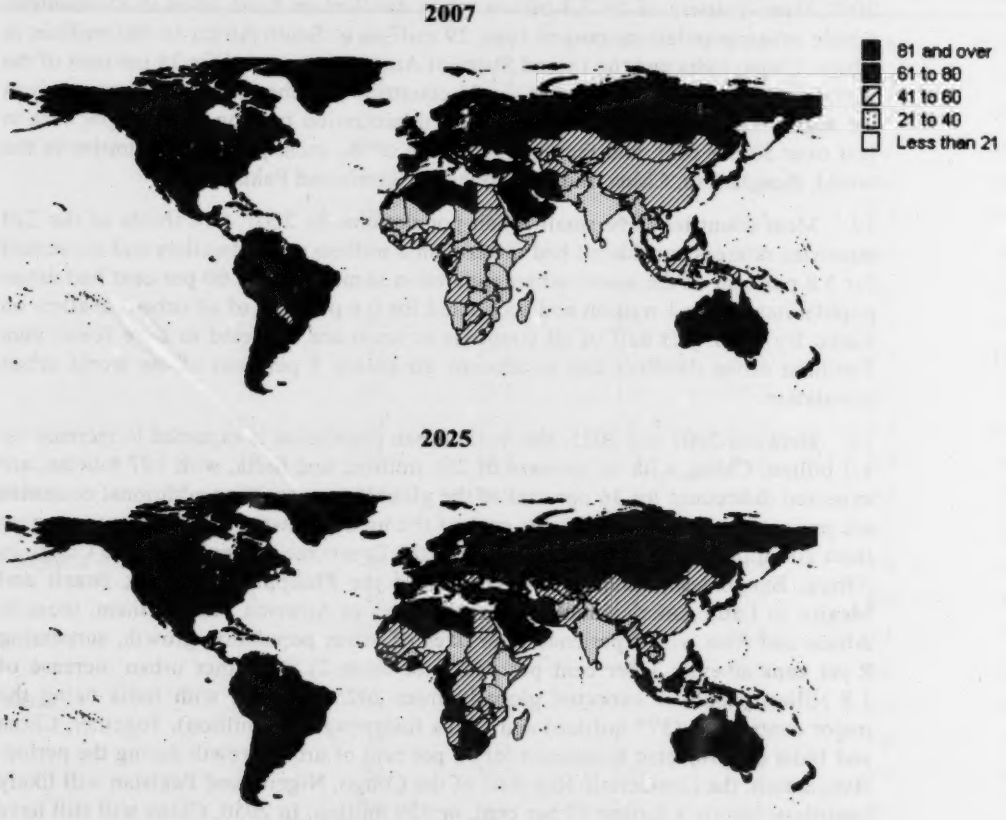
Table 1
Evolution of urban and rural populations, 1950-2050

	1950	*1975*	*2007*	*2025*	*2050*	*1950-1975*	*1975-2007*	*2007-2025*	*2025-2050*
	Population in urban areas (millions)					*Rate of urban population change (percentage)*			
World	737	1 519	3 294	4 584	6 398	2.9	2.4	1.8	1.3
More developed regions	427	702	910	995	1071	2.0	0.8	0.5	0.3
Less developed regions	310	817	2 384	3 590	5 327	3.9	3.3	2.3	1.6
Least developed countries	15	53	225	452	967	5.0	4.5	3.9	3.0
Africa	33	107	373	658	1 234	4.8	3.9	3.1	2.5
Asia	237	574	1 645	2 440	3 486	3.5	3.3	2.2	1.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	69	198	448	575	683	4.2	2.5	1.4	0.7
North America	110	180	275	337	401	2.0	1.3	1.1	0.7
Europe	281	444	528	545	557	1.8	0.5	0.2	0.1
Oceania	8	15	24	30	37	2.6	1.4	1.2	0.9
	Population in rural areas (millions)					*Rate of rural population change (percentage)*			
World	1 798	2 558	3 377	3 426	2 793	1.4	0.9	0.1	-0.8
More developed regions	386	346	313	264	174	-0.4	-0.3	-0.9	-1.7
Less developed regions	1 412	2 211	3 064	3 162	2 619	1.8	1.0	0.2	-0.8
Least developed countries	185	305	580	734	775	2.0	2.0	1.3	0.2
Africa	192	309	592	736	764	1.9	2.0	1.2	0.1
Asia	1 174	1 820	2 384	2 339	1 780	1.8	0.8	-0.1	-1.1
Latin America and the Caribbean	98	126	124	113	87	1.0	-0.1	-0.5	-1.1
North America	62	64	63	56	44	0.1	0.0	-0.7	-1.0
Europe	267	232	204	170	107	-0.6	-0.4	-1.0	-1.8
Oceania	5	6	10	12	11	0.9	1.6	0.8	0.0

	1950	1975	2007	2025	2050	1950-1975	1975-2007	2007-2025	2025-2050
	Percentage in urban areas					*Rate of urbanization (percentage)*			
World	29.1	37.3	49.4	57.2	69.6	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8
More developed regions	52.5	67.0	74.4	79.0	86.0	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Less developed regions	18.0	27.0	43.8	53.2	67.0	1.6	1.5	1.1	0.9
Least developed countries	7.5	14.8	27.9	38.1	55.5	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.5
Africa	14.5	25.7	38.7	47.2	61.8	2.3	1.3	1.1	1.1
Asia	16.8	24.0	40.8	51.1	66.2	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	41.4	61.1	78.3	83.5	88.7	1.6	0.8	0.4	0.2
North America	63.9	73.8	81.3	85.7	90.2	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2
Europe	51.2	65.7	72.2	76.2	83.8	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.4
Oceania	62.0	71.5	70.5	71.9	76.4	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.2

Source: *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision*, United Nations (forthcoming).

Figure I
Percentage of population in urban areas, 2007, 2025 and 2050



2050

Source: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: World Population Prospects DEMOBASE, extracted in 2007.

Note: The boundaries shown on the present map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

11. The urban population is highly concentrated in a few countries (see table 2). In 2007, three quarters of the 3.3 billion urban dwellers on Earth lived in 25 countries whose urban populations ranged from 29 million in South Africa to 561 million in China. China, India and the United States of America accounted for 35 per cent of the world's urban population. Most of the 25 countries with the largest urban populations are highly urbanized, but 7 have levels of urbanization ranging from 26 per cent to just over 50 per cent, and they include some of the most populous countries in the world: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan.

12. Most countries have small urban populations. In 2007, two thirds of the 229 countries or areas considered had fewer than 5 million urban dwellers and accounted for 5.8 per cent of the world urban population. Among them, 60 per cent had urban populations below 1 million and accounted for 0.6 per cent of all urban dwellers on Earth. By 2050, just half of all countries or areas are expected to have fewer than 5 million urban dwellers and to account for barely 2 per cent of the world urban population.

13. Between 2007 and 2025, the world urban population is expected to increase by 1.3 billion. China, with an increase of 261 million, and India, with 197 million, are expected to account for 36 per cent of the global increase. Nine additional countries are projected to contribute 29 per cent of the urban growth, with increases ranging from 20 million to 62 million: Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa; Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines in Asia; Brazil and Mexico in Latin America; and the United States of America. Among them, those in Africa and Asia will experience high rates of urban population growth, surpassing 2 per cent or even 3 per cent per year (see table 2). A further urban increase of 1.8 billion people is expected globally from 2025 to 2050, with India being the major contributor (377 million) and China following (205 million). Together, China and India are projected to account for 32 per cent of urban growth during the period. Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Pakistan will likely contribute jointly a further 17 per cent, or 309 million. In 2050, China will still have the largest urban population (1 billion), followed by India (0.9 million).

14. Over the coming decades, world population growth will largely be determined by growth in the urban areas of developing countries (see figure II). Around 2019, when the world rural population reaches 3.5 billion, it is expected to start declining because the number of rural inhabitants in the less developed regions will begin a slow descent. The rural population of the more developed regions has been declining since the 1960s, and their urban population will increase by just 85 million between 2007 and 2050. In a few developed countries, the urban population will decrease (e.g., the Russian Federation and Ukraine). Consequently, the annual increase of the urban population in the less developed regions will dominate population growth for the foreseeable future (see figure III). That annual increase, which today amounts to 62 million people, is expected to peak at 72 million around 2030 and decline to 63 million by mid-century. In comparison, the urban population of the more developed regions will gain no more than 2 million or 3 million people annually.

Table 2
Countries accounting for 75 per cent of the world urban population in 2007

	Country	*Rural population (millions)*	*Urban population (millions)*	*Proportion urban*	*Percentage of world urban population*	*Cumulative percentage*	*Growth rate, 2007-2025 (percentage)*	*Urban population in 2025 (millions)*
	World	3 377	3 294	49.4	100.0	100.0	1.8	4 584
1	China	767	561	42.2	17.0	17.0	2.1	822
2	India	828	341	29.2	10.4	27.4	2.5	538
3	United States of America	57	249	81.4	7.6	35.0	1.1	305
4	Brazil	28	163	85.2	5.0	39.9	1.3	207
5	Indonesia	115	117	50.4	3.5	43.5	2.4	179
6	Russian Federation	39	104	72.8	3.2	46.6	-0.4	96
7	Japan	43	85	66.3	2.6	49.2	0.1	86
8	Mexico	25	82	76.9	2.5	51.7	1.2	102
9	Nigeria	78	71	47.6	2.1	53.8	3.3	127
10	Germany	22	61	73.5	1.8	55.7	0.1	62
11	Pakistan	105	58	35.7	1.8	57.4	3.2	104
12	Philippines	31	57	64.2	1.7	59.2	2.4	86
13	United Kingdom	6	55	89.9	1.7	60.8	0.5	60
14	Turkey	24	51	68.2	1.6	62.4	1.6	68
15	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	23	48	68.0	1.5	63.8	1.8	67
16	France	14	48	77.1	1.4	65.3	0.7	54
17	Bangladesh	116	42	26.6	1.3	66.6	3.3	77
18	Italy	19	40	67.9	1.2	67.8	0.3	42
19	Republic of Korea	9	39	81.3	1.2	69.0	0.4	42
20	Argentina	3	36	91.8	1.1	70.1	1.0	43
21	Colombia	12	34	74.2	1.0	71.1	1.4	44
22	Spain	10	34	77.0	1.0	72.1	0.5	38
23	Egypt	43	32	42.6	1.0	73.1	2.0	46

Country	Rural population (millions)	Urban population (millions)	Proportion urban	Percentage of world urban population	Cumulative percentage	Growth rate, 2007-2025 (percentage)	Urban population in 2025 (millions)
24 Ukraine	15	31	67.9	1.0	74.1	-0.5	28
25 South Africa	19	29	60.2	0.9	75.0	1.2	36

Source: *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision*, United Nations (forthcoming).

Figure II
Urban and rural population growth for the world and the more developed and the less developed regions, 1950-2050

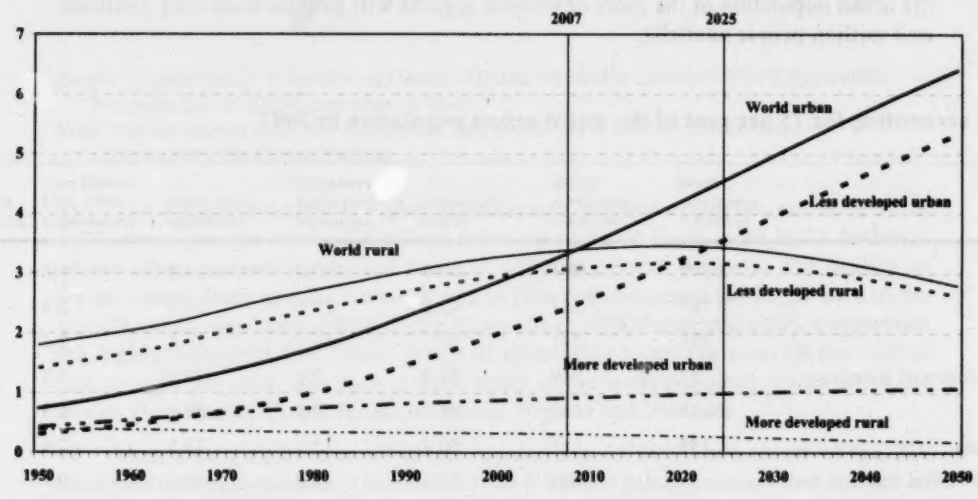
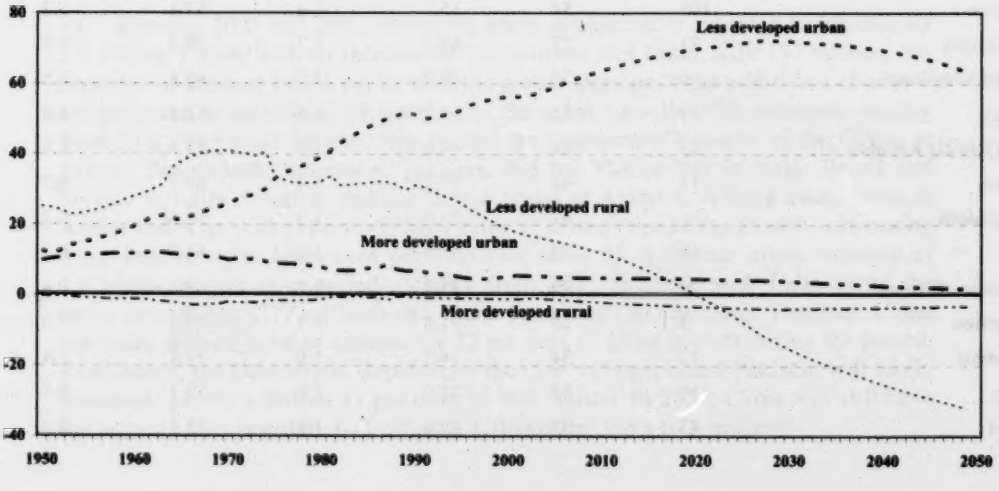


Figure III
Annual growth of the urban and rural populations of the more developed and the less developed regions, 1950-2050



B. Rural population trends

15. In 2007, 3.4 billion persons lived in rural areas (see table 1). In contrast with the urban population, the rural population is growing slowly globally and declining in all major areas except Africa and Oceania. Asia, with 2.4 billion rural inhabitants, accounts for 70.6 per cent of the world rural population. Africa, with 0.6 billion, accounts for 17.5 per cent. The rural share of all other regions is 12 per cent. By 2050, Africa's rural population is expected to increase by 29 per cent, reaching nearly 0.8 billion, or 27 per cent of the world rural population. Asia's rural population will decline markedly, to 1.8 billion in 2050, so its share will drop to 64 per cent. Consequently, over the coming decades, just 1 in every 10 rural inhabitants will live outside Africa or Asia.

16. The rural population is even more highly concentrated in a few countries than the urban population. In 2007, 18 countries accounted for 75 per cent of the rural population and all but three (Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America) are in Africa or Asia. India has the largest rural population (828 million), followed by China (767 million). Together, they account for 47 per cent of the world rural population. Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan follow, each with over 100 million rural inhabitants. In Africa, the largest rural populations are located in Nigeria (78 million), Ethiopia (69 million), Egypt (43 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (42 million), the United Republic of Tanzania (30 million) and Kenya (30 million). From 2007 to 2025, the rural populations of most of these African countries are projected to increase at rates of 1 per cent or more per year, the only exception being Nigeria. Among populous countries in Asia, Pakistan will have the highest rural growth rate from 2007 to 2025 (0.8 per cent per year). In contrast, in 8 of the 18 countries with large rural populations the rural population is declining, with China, Indonesia, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States having the fastest rates of decline.

17. By 2025, India's rural population will be near its peak, at 909 million, and by 2050 it is expected to decrease to 743 million. China's rural population will be decreasing steadily in future decades, to reach 382 million in 2050, about half its current level. Most of the other countries with large rural populations are expected to see them peak after 2020. The rural populations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Nigeria are projected to gain between 27 million and 37 million each by 2050, thus having the greatest increases among populous countries. In contrast, Indonesia's rural population is projected to decrease by 53 million.

18. As in the case of the urban population, most countries have small rural populations. In 2007, 69 per cent of the 229 countries or areas considered had at most 5 million rural inhabitants and accounted for 4.8 per cent of the world rural population. In three quarters of them, the rural population is projected to decrease during the period from 2007 to 2050.

C. City size and growth

19. Today's 3.4 billion urban dwellers are distributed unevenly among urban settlements of different size. In discussing urbanization, the focus is often on large cities, cities with more inhabitants than many countries in the world. Naturally, those cities or urban agglomerations tend to be concentrated in populous countries.

In 2007, 19 urban agglomerations qualified as megacities, that is, they have at least 10 million inhabitants (see table 3). The most populous, Tokyo, has nearly 36 million inhabitants, but it encompasses all contiguous densely inhabited districts in Tokyo-to (ku-bu) plus those in 87 surrounding cities and towns, including Yokohama, Kawasaki and Chiba, important cities in their own right. The term urban agglomeration is used to indicate that the settlements considered are often a combination of several distinct units located close to one another and having a variety of functional linkages.

20. In addition to Tokyo, Asia has 10 other megacities, while Latin America has four, North America two and Africa and Europe one each. Eleven of these megacities are capitals of their countries. By 2025, there will be an additional 8 megacities, for a total of 27: in Asia the number will have increased by five, in Africa by two and in Europe by one. Despite their visibility and dynamism, megacities account for a small though increasing proportion of the world urban population: 8 per cent in 2005 and 10 per cent in 2025 (see figure IV).

21. The next tier of large cities, those with populations ranging from 5 million to just under 10 million, numbered 31 in 2005 and is expected to number 48 in 2025, but accounting for just 7 per cent of the urban population on both dates. Three quarters of these "megacities in waiting" are located in developing countries.

Table 3
Population of the world's megacities, 1975-2025
(Millions of inhabitants)

	City	*1975*	*City*	*2007*	*City*	*2015*	*City*	*2025*
1	Tokyo	26.6	Tokyo	35.7	Tokyo	36.4	Tokyo	36.4
2	New York-Newark	15.9	New York-Newark	19.0	Mumbai (Bombay)	21.9	Mumbai (Bombay)	26.4
3	Mexico City	10.7	Mexico City	19.0	São Paulo	20.5	Delhi	22.5
4			Mumbai (Bombay)	19.0	Mexico City	20.2	Dhaka	22.0
5			São Paulo	18.8	New York-Newark	20.0	São Paulo	21.4
6			Delhi	15.9	Delhi	18.7	Mexico City	21.0
7			Shanghai	15.0	Shanghai	17.2	New York-Newark	20.6
8			Kolkata (Calcutta)	14.8	Kolkata (Calcutta)	17.0	Kolkata (Calcutta)	20.6
9			Dhaka	13.5	Dhaka	17.0	Shanghai	19.4
10			Buenos Aires	12.8	Karachi	14.9	Karachi	19.1
11			Los Angeles[a]	12.5	Cairo	13.5	Kinshasa	16.8
12			Karachi	12.1	Buenos Aires	13.4	Lagos	15.8
13			Cairo	11.9	Los Angeles[a]	13.2	Cairo	15.6
14			Rio de Janeiro	11.7	Beijing	12.8	Manila	14.8
15			Osaka-Kobe	11.3	Manila	12.8	Beijing	14.5
16			Beijing	11.1	Rio de Janeiro	12.8	Buenos Aires	13.8
17			Manila	11.1	Lagos	12.4	Los Angeles[a]	13.7
18			Moscow	10.5	Osaka-Kobe	11.4	Rio de Janeiro	13.4
19			Istanbul	10.1	Kinshasa	11.3	Jakarta	12.4

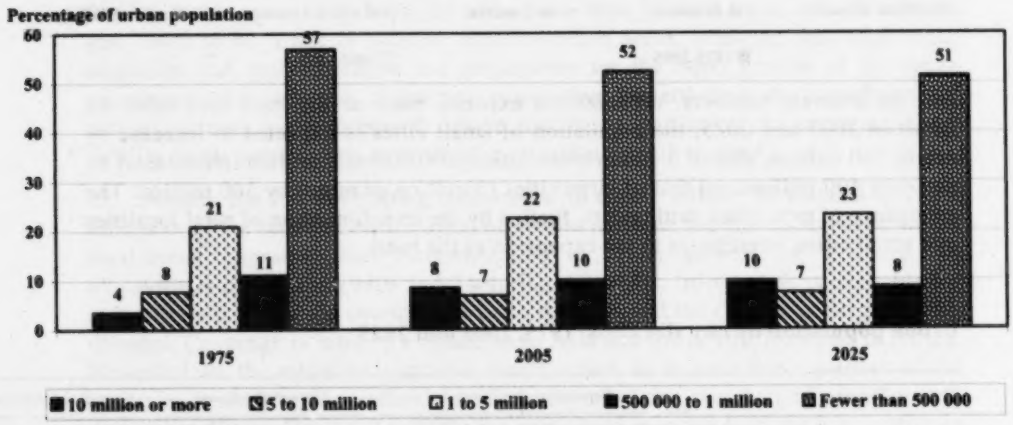
	City	1975	City	2007	City	2015	City	2025
20					Istanbul	11.2	Istanbul	12.1
21					Jakarta	10.8	Guangzhou[b]	11.8
22					Moscow	10.5	Osaka-Kobe	11.4
23					Guangzhou[b]	10.4	Moscow	10.5
24					Paris	10.0	Lahore	10.5
25							Shenzhen	10.2
26							Chennai (Madras)	10.1
27							Paris	10.0

Source: *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision*, United Nations (forthcoming).

[a] Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana.

[b] Guangzhou in Guangdong province.

Figure IV
Distribution of the world urban population by city size class, 1975, 2005 and 2025

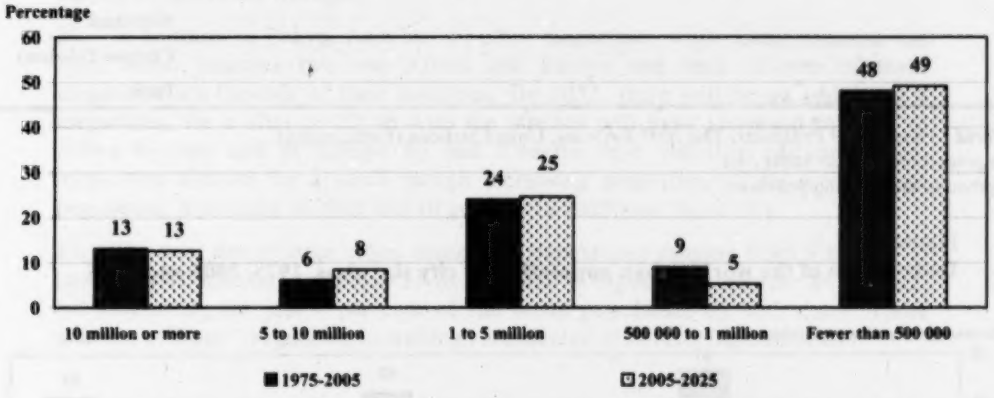


22. The cities with fewer than 5 million inhabitants but more than a million are considerably more numerous (361 in 2005, increasing to 526 in 2025) and they accounted for 22 per cent of the urban population in 2005. Smaller cities, having fewer than a million inhabitants but more than half a million, are also numerous (448 in 2005, rising to 551 in 2025), but because of their small populations their share of the overall urban population is a low 10 per cent. As time goes on and cities pass from one category to the next, the combined share of these two categories is expected to decline somewhat, from 32 per cent in 2005 to 31 per cent in 2025.

23. All the size categories considered so far account for 48 per cent of the urban population, implying that smaller cities comprise over half of the urban population. There is no complete listing of all the small cities, since many have only a few thousand inhabitants, but the increases observed in the urban population are driven in large part by the increasing population in small urban centres. Between 1975 and 2005, 48 per cent of the increase in the world urban population was accounted for by the rise in the population of small cities (see figure V), and that share is expected

to remain nearly unchanged from 2005 to 2025. In comparison, large cities, including megacities, account for about a fifth of urban growth, while medium-sized cities account for about a third.

Figure V
Share of world urban population growth accounted for by cities of different class sizes, 1975-2005 and 2005-2025



24. In absolute numbers, urbanization expands more at the base (see table 4). Between 2005 and 2025, the population of small cities is expected to increase by nearly 700 million, that of medium-sized cities (500,000 to 5 million inhabitants) by just over 400 million and that of large cities (5 million or more) by 300 million. The emergence of new urban settlements, fuelled by the transformation of rural localities into small cities, contributes to the expansion of the base.

Table 4
Urban population by city size class, 1975, 2005 and 2025

	Population (millions)			*Growth (millions)*		*Growth rate (percentage)*	
	1975	*2005*	*2025*	*1975-2005*	*2005-2025*	*1975-2005*	*2005-2025*
World urban population	1 519	3 165	4,584	1 646	1 420	2.45	1.85
City size class							
10 million or more	53	268	447	215	179	5.39	2.55
5 to 10 million	117	217	337	100	119	2.06	2.19
1 to 5 million	317	711	1 060	394	349	2.69	2.00
500 000 to 1 million	168	314	390	147	75	2.10	1.07
Fewer than 500 000	863	1 653	2 351	790	698	2.17	1.76

Source: *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision*, United Nations (forthcoming).

25. Relative to its initial population size, the fastest growing size class is that of megacities, partly because this group tends to grow by "quantum leaps" of at least 10 million. However, as the number of megacities increases, their growth rate declines. Thus, the average annual growth rate of the megacity class is expected to

drop from 5.4 per cent in the period from 1975 to 2005 to 2.6 per cent from 2005 to 2025. This overall growth rate for the megacity class does not mean that each megacity grows that fast. Because of their large populations, megacities tend to grow more slowly than less populous cities. Exceptions exist, however. Among the megacities of 2007, the fastest growing were Dhaka, with an annual growth rate of 3.3 per cent from 2005 to 2010, Delhi, with 2.5 per cent, and Karachi with 2.4 per cent. All other megacities in Africa and Asia have current annual growth rates ranging from 1.6 per cent to 2.0 per cent, while those in other regions have annual growth rates below 1.4 per cent. By comparison, there are 176 other cities with at least 750,000 inhabitants growing at an annual rate of 2.5 per cent or higher.

III. Internal migration

A. Migration and the components of urban growth

26. Population distribution is determined by the growth or decline of populations on site (the difference between births and deaths, known as natural increase) and by internal migration and reclassification of rural localities into urban centres. Because fertility levels are usually lower in urban areas than in rural areas, natural increase also tends to be lower in relative terms in urban areas, implying that rural-urban migration and reclassification are responsible for the rapid growth of the urban population relative to that of the rural population. Nevertheless, the contribution of natural increase to urban growth can be significant, particularly in countries where fertility levels remain high and overall population growth is rapid.

27. Among the 113 developing countries with over a million inhabitants in 2007, estimates of the separate contribution of natural increase and the combination of net rural-urban migration and reclassification to urban growth are available for 62 countries during the 1980s and 34 during the 1990s. Information is available for at least two thirds of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean for those two decades. Coverage is lower for countries in Asia and lower still for those in Africa. Nevertheless, the estimates available indicate that, in at least three quarters of the countries in each region, natural increase accounted for over half of urban growth during the 1980s. During the 1990s the same held true for 6 of the 8 countries in Africa, 7 of the 11 countries in Asia and 12 of the 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean with estimates available.

28. Among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, for most of which estimates are available since the 1960s, a tendency for natural increase to account for increasing proportions of urban growth is discernible, despite declining fertility trends.[5] The high levels of urbanization attained by these countries contribute to this outcome. In Africa and Asia, most countries lack sufficient estimates to assess trends but, in the 1980s, natural increase accounted for over 70 per cent of urban growth in a quarter of those in Africa and half of those in Asia.

29. Among the few countries where migration and reclassification account for most of urban growth, two stand out: China and Indonesia. In China, the estimates available suggest that those two components accounted for over 70 per cent of urban

[5] "Panorama social de América Latina", documento informativo, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

growth in the 1980s and about 80 per cent in the 1990s. Because the estimates are derived from census information and the definitions of "urban" used in the Chinese censuses have been changing, this finding should be interpreted with caution since it probably means that reclassification is a major contributor to urban growth. Estimates for Indonesia indicate a steady decline in the contribution of natural increase to urban growth, from nearly 70 per cent in the 1960s to 32 per cent in the 1990s.

30. In sum, according to available estimates, in the majority of countries natural increase makes a larger contribution to urban population growth than internal migration and reclassification combined. However, the exceptions include some of the most populous countries on Earth and suggest that the particularities of each case need to be considered in devising appropriate responses to that growth.

B. Internal migration, development and migrant characteristics

31. According to economic theory, individuals migrate from low-wage to high-wage areas seeking to maximize their earnings, which are conditioned by their human capital and the chances of getting a job at the destination. From this perspective, rural-urban migration would be the most likely form of migration, given the large differences in typical wages between rural and urban areas. Rural-urban migration is also a means for rural households to insure themselves against a number of risks and, in the absence of well-functioning credit markets, to get the funds needed for investment (in grain, fertilizer, education) via remittances. These factors have guided much of the analysis of internal migration in developing countries. However, empirical evidence shows that, contrary to expectations, rural-urban migration may not be the most common type of internal migration in many countries.

32. Depending on the stage of urbanization, movements between rural areas or those between urban areas may be dominant. Data on recent migrants (persons moving during the six years preceding interview) obtained from demographic and health surveys permit an assessment of the relevance of the different types of migration. In 26 out of the 46 countries with data available on female migrants, rural-rural migration is the most common, and it tends to be highest in Africa. In 15 countries, urban-urban migration is dominant among women. Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Paraguay and Bolivia exhibit the highest percentage of urban-urban migrants among female migrants. Rural-urban migration is dominant among female migrants only in the Comoros, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In two other countries, urban-rural migration predominates among women who move.

33. Among recent male migrants, urban-urban migration predominates in 12 of the 24 countries with data available. Rural-rural migration is most common among male migrants in a further seven countries, mostly in Africa. Rural-urban migration is the predominant type in only one country (Kazakhstan), whereas urban-rural migration is the most common for males in Burundi, Kenya, Mali and Nigeria.

34. Generally, the participation of women in internal migration flows is high, although, depending on the type of flow, the level of participation varies. In Egypt and India, for instance, females outnumber males, sometimes by wide margins, in rural-rural migration. In Brazil, Honduras, the Philippines and Thailand, women have been overrepresented in migration to urban areas. Using demographic and health survey (DHS) data and comparing male and female participation in all types of movements, females tend to outnumber males in most countries, but the differences

are generally small. In Bangladesh, Benin, Nepal and Pakistan, female migrants outnumber male migrants by over 10 per cent. In countries of South Asia, the tradition of marrying women to men from a different village has contributed to this differential.

35. Analysis of DHS data from the perspective of region of origin indicates that urban-origin migrants are more likely to move to urban areas than rural-origin migrants. However, countries with high proportions of urban-origin migrants moving between urban areas also tend to have high proportions of rural-origin migrants moving to urban areas. In most countries in Africa and Asia, rural-origin male migrants are more likely to move to urban areas than rural-origin female migrants. The reverse holds true for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, where rural-origin female migrants are more likely to move to urban areas than their male counterparts.

36. Migrants are not randomly selected from the population. In particular, the level of educational attainment of migrants is often higher than that of non-migrants, even after controlling for age, childhood residence and current residence. Analysis of DHS data reveals that, in Africa and Asia, migrant women are less likely to be illiterate than non-migrant women and usually have higher levels of educational attainment than their non-migrant counterparts. In Latin America and the Caribbean, in contrast, migrant women have lower levels of educational attainment than female non-migrants. In the case of men, migrants are generally more positively selected for educational attainment than migrant women, especially in Africa.

37. Data on the labour force participation of migrants compared to non-migrants present a mixed picture. After controlling for age, childhood residence and current residence, the differences detected are often not significant, particularly for men. Among countries where the differences are significant, there are almost as many cases where the odds of working favour migrants as there are those where the odds favour non-migrants. An analysis of the likelihood of working in a skilled non-manual occupation shows more clear-cut differences between migrants and non-migrants. In most countries, migrant men are more likely to work in skilled occupations than non-migrants, and the same is true for women in Africa and in several countries in Asia. In Latin American countries and in the Philippines, where women have a long tradition of migrating in search of unskilled work, the odds of working in skilled occupations are lower for female migrants than for non-migrant women.

38. In Latin America, a study of 13 countries based on census data shows that, around 2000, recent migrants of both sexes were more likely to be economically active than non-migrants.[5] However, in all but two of the countries considered, unemployment was higher among migrants than among non-migrants, though in most cases the difference was less than one percentage point.

39. Using DHS data, an index of household poverty based on ownership of household appliances and type of housing was used to ascertain whether households with recent migrant women were more likely to be poor than those without such migrants. The results showed that households with migrants were only slightly more likely than those without migrants to be poor.[6] Differences were also small with regard to the access of households with and without migrants to services (water, sanitation or electricity).

[6] Mark R. Montgomery et al., *Cities Transformed* (Washington, D.C., National Academies Press, 2003).

40. In sum, internal migration is varied. Migrants are often positively selected in terms of education and skills, therefore being more likely to do well at their destination. Migrants in urban areas do not necessarily originate in rural areas and should not be equated with the urban poor. Migration is generally beneficial for migrants who gain access better opportunities, for their families who benefit from remittances and for the redistribution of labour from lower- to higher-productivity jobs in rural-urban migration or among different local labour markets when urban-urban or rural-rural migration is involved. Migration also opens up opportunities for women, giving them access to jobs outside the home and thereby contributing to their empowerment.

IV. Population distribution and population ageing

41. Migrants are more likely to move at young ages. Emigration rates from rural areas are usually highest at ages 15 to 29. In addition, fertility levels are lower in urban than in rural areas. In developing regions, total fertility in urban areas falls short of total fertility in rural areas by about a child per woman, although this difference is lower in South-East Asia.[6] In addition, the evidence available indicates that mortality in urban areas also tends to be lower than in rural areas, except possibly in countries highly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. These differences arise because the transition to low mortality and low fertility started earlier in urban than in rural areas. Consequently, in the absence of migration, urban areas would be more advanced in the process of population ageing than rural areas and would have lower child-dependency ratios[7] and higher old-age dependency ratios[8] than rural areas. Rural-urban migration, by adding more people of working age to the urban population in relative terms, would increase the denominator of both ratios and therefore reduce them.

42. Figure VI shows that, as expected, child dependency ratios in 2005 are consistently lower for urban areas than for rural areas, although for North America the difference is very small. In Europe, the urban child dependency ratio is 15 per cent lower than the rural one. In Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, urban child dependency ratios are 30 per cent lower than those for rural areas. With respect to old-age dependency ratios, all five regions have higher values in rural than in urban areas. The largest proportional differences between the two are found in Africa, where the urban old-age dependency ratio is 30 per cent below the rural ratio, and in Europe, with a 21 per cent relative difference. In these two major areas, the population aged 60 or over is less urbanized than the total population. The same is true in Asia and North America, although the difference in urbanization levels between the older and the total populations is lower. In Latin America and the Caribbean, where the relative difference between the rural and urban old-age dependency ratios is the lowest, the older population is more urbanized than the total, mostly because older women are overrepresented in urban areas.

43. Oceania is a special case because it includes both highly urbanized Australia and New Zealand, with older populations, and the mostly rural Papua New Guinea, with a young population. Consequently, both its rural child dependency ratio and its

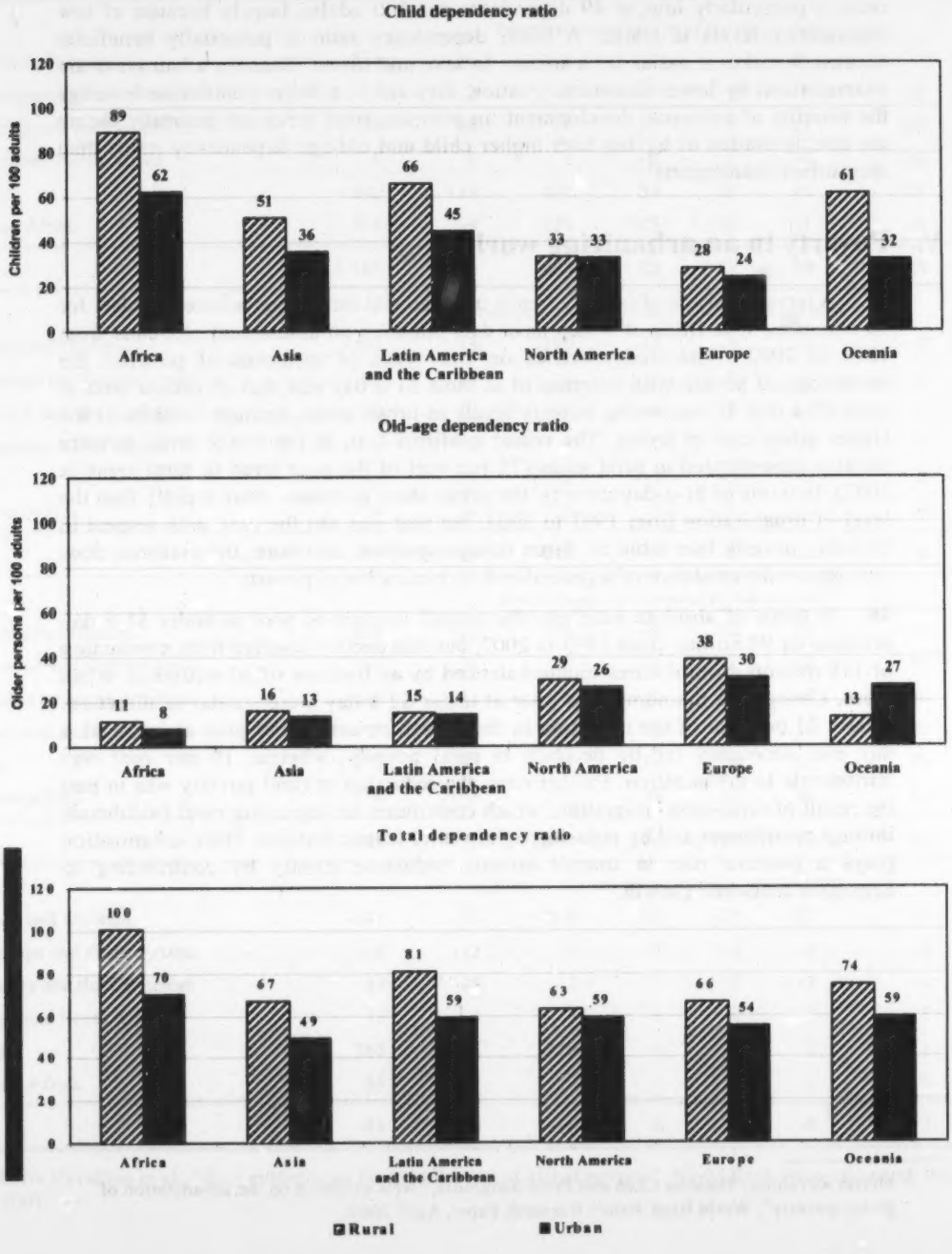
[7] The number of children (persons under age 15) per 100 adults of working age (persons aged 15 to 59).

[8] The number of persons aged 60 or over per 100 adults of working age (persons aged 15 to 59).

urban old-age dependency ratio are high, with the former having a level similar to that for Latin America and the Caribbean and the latter being similar to that of North America.

Figure VI

Dependency ratios for urban and rural areas by major area, 2005



44. In terms of total dependency ratios, the rural areas of Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean have the highest, ranging from 74 to 100 dependants per 100 adults of working age. Rural dependency ratios in Asia, Europe and North America are more moderate, ranging from 63 to 67 dependants per 100 adults. In comparison, the urban dependency ratio in Africa is high (70), while those of other major areas range mostly from 54 to 59 dependants per 100 adults. Asia's urban dependency ratio is particularly low, at 49 dependants per 100 adults, largely because of low dependency levels in China. A lower dependency ratio is potentially beneficial because it makes it easier for a society to save and invest. Because urban areas are characterized by lower dependency ratios, they are in a better position to leverage the benefits of economic development. In contrast, rural areas are generally facing the double burden of having both higher child and old-age dependency ratios than their urban counterparts.

V. Poverty in an urbanizing world

45. A recent analysis of poverty trends in urban and rural areas is based on data for 90 countries, four fifths of which have data allowing an assessment of trends from 1993 to 2002.[9] The study focuses on two types of measures of poverty: the percentage of people with incomes of at most $1 a day and that of people with at most $2 a day. In estimating poverty levels in urban areas, account is taken of the higher urban cost of living. The report confirms that, at the world level, poverty remains concentrated in rural areas (75 per cent of the poor lived in rural areas in 2002). In terms of $1-a-day poverty, the urban share increased more rapidly than the level of urbanization from 1993 to 2002, but that was not the case with respect to $2-a-day poverty (see table 5). From this perspective, therefore, the evidence does not support the existence of a generalized "urbanization of poverty".

46. In terms of absolute numbers, the overall number of poor at under $1 a day declined by 98 million from 1993 to 2002, but that decline resulted from a reduction of 148 million in rural areas counterbalanced by an increase of 50 million in urban areas. Changes in the number of poor at under $2 a day were similar in direction. Nearly 77 per cent of the reduction in the overall percentage of poor at under $1 a day was accounted for by declines in rural poverty, whereas 19 per cent was attributable to urbanization. Furthermore, the reduction in rural poverty was in part the result of rural-urban migration, which contributes to improving rural livelihoods through remittances and by inducing tighter rural labour markets. Thus, urbanization plays a positive role in overall poverty reduction mostly by contributing to aggregate economic growth.

[9] Martin Ravallion, Shaohua Chen and Prem Sangraula, "New evidence on the urbanization of global poverty", World Bank Policy Research Paper, April 2007.

Table 5
Estimates of the number of people living on at most $1 a day or at most $2 a day

Region	Number of poor (millions)			Percentage poor			Percentage urban	
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Poor	Population
	Poverty measured in terms of $1 a day in 2002							
Eastern Asia and Oceania	234	16	218	13	2	20	7	39
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	7	2	5	2	1	3	33	63
Latin America and the Caribbean	65	38	27	12	9	21	59	76
Middle East and North Africa	6	1	5	2	1	4	20	56
South Asia	542	135	407	39	35	40	25	28
Sub-Saharan Africa	328	99	229	47	40	51	30	35
Total	**1 181**	**291**	**890**	**23**	**13**	**30**	**25**	**42**
	Change in $1-a-day poverty between 1993 and 2002							
Eastern Asia and Oceania	-202	-13	-189	-13	-3	-16	0	8
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	-5	-4	-1	-1	-1	-1	-16	0
Latin America and the Caribbean	10	12	-2	0	2	-1	11	4
Middle East and North Africa	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	3
South Asia	43	21	22	-3	-3	-3	2	2
Sub-Saharan Africa	54	32	22	-2	0	-2	6	5
Total	**-98**	**50**	**-148**	**-5**	**-1**	**-7**	**6**	**4**
	Poverty measured in terms of $2 a day in 2002							
Eastern Asia and Oceania	835	126	708	46	18	63	15	39
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	64	32	32	14	11	19	50	63
Latin America and the Caribbean	169	111	58	32	28	46	66	76
Middle East and North Africa	68	20	48	24	12	38	29	56
South Asia	1 177	297	881	84	76	87	25	28
Sub-Saharan Africa	539	168	371	78	69	82	31	35
Total	**2 851**	**752**	**2 099**	**55**	**34**	**70**	**26**	**42**
	Change in $2-a-day poverty between 1993 and 2002							
Eastern Asia and Oceania	-341	-73	-268	-25	-21	-22	-2	8
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	-14	-12	-2	-3	-4	-1	-6	0
Latin America and the Caribbean	33	35	-2	2	5	-1	10	4
Middle East and North Africa	11	4	7	0	0	2	1	3
South Asia	165	56	110	-1	-3	0	1	2
Sub-Saharan Africa	96	57	39	-2	2	-3	6	5
Total	**-51**	**65**	**-116**	**-9**	**-5**	**-8**	**3**	**4**

Source: Martin Ravallion et al., "New evidence on the urbanization of global poverty", World Bank Policy Research Paper, April 2007.

47. There are, however, important regional differences. The percentage of people in poverty is highest in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. In both regions, the number of persons in poverty increased between 1993 and 2002, and in sub-Saharan Africa increases were higher in urban than in rural areas. In South Asia, the number of poor increased less in urban than in rural areas, particularly with respect to $2-a-day poverty. Eastern Asia and Oceania had the third-highest level of poverty and experienced major reductions in the number of people in poverty between 1993 and 2002, largely because the number of rural poor at under $1 a day in China dropped by 111 million. The Latin America and the Caribbean region is exceptional in that its number of rural poor decreased while that of urban poor increased. In the Middle East and North Africa, increases in the number of rural poor surpassed the changes in the number of urban poor, and in Eastern Europe and Central Asia the number of urban poor declined more than the number of rural poor.

48. Overall, the percentage of poor at under $1 a day in urban areas declined from 14 per cent in 1993 to 13 per cent in 2002, whereas that in rural areas declined from 37 per cent to 30 per cent. The marked decline in the percentage of poor in rural areas was driven mainly by reductions in poverty in the rural areas of Eastern Asia and Oceania. In all other regions, the reductions in poverty levels were well below the overall weighted mean. In general, reductions in the percentage of poor in urban areas were lower than for rural areas, and Latin America and the Caribbean recorded an outright increase. That region is the only one where over half of the poor live in urban areas, yet they are still less urbanized than the total population. Although in most regions there has been an increasing concentration of the poor in urban areas, simulations indicate that, with current trends, it would take many decades for the majority of the poor to live in urban areas.

49. In general, the prevalence of poverty tends to be lower at higher levels of urbanization and the difference between urban and rural poverty tends to decline with rising urbanization. These observations and the estimates presented above suggest that urbanization has played a quantitatively important role in reducing overall poverty by providing opportunities to rural-urban migrants, some of whom escape poverty by moving to cities, and by improving indirectly the standard of living of those remaining in rural areas. As Ravallion and others note, "The poor are gravitating to towns and cities, but more rapid poverty reduction through economic growth will probably entail an even faster pace of urbanization".[9]

VI. Urbanization and access to basic services

50. In 2004, 83 per cent of the world population had access to an improved or protected source of drinking water. In developed countries, all urban dwellers and 94 per cent of rural inhabitants had such access. In developing countries, 92 per cent of urban dwellers and 70 per cent of the rural population had access.[10] Access to an improved or protected source of drinking water was poorest in sub-Saharan Africa and in the developing countries of Oceania, where 80 per cent of the urban population but only about 40 per cent of the rural population had access. In developing countries, access increased by 9 percentage points between 1990 and 2004 owing to improved access in rural areas. Globally, the millennium

[10] World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, *Meeting the MDG Drinking Water and Sanitation Target: The Urban and Rural Challenge of the Decade*.

development target of halving the proportion of people lacking access to safe drinking water by 2015 is likely to be met. However, extrapolating past trends, over 900 million people are expected still to lack access in 2015, 75 per cent of whom will live in rural areas.

51. Two billion of the 2.4 billion people lacking access to basic sanitation in 2004 lived in rural areas, when just 59 per cent of the world population had access to an improved sanitation facility.[10] In developed countries, 98 per cent of urban dwellers and 93 per cent of rural inhabitants had such access. In developing countries, 73 per cent of urban dwellers but only 33 per cent of rural dwellers had access to improved sanitation. Rural inhabitants in East Asia, South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa were the most underserved, with at most 28 per cent having access. The urban populations of those regions were also relatively underserved, with just 53 per cent of urban dwellers in sub-Saharan Africa having access to improved sanitation, and 63 per cent and 69 per cent, respectively, of those in South Asia and Ea t Asia. Overall, access to sanitation in developing countries increased from 35 per cent in 1990 to 50 per cent in 2004, with a near doubling of the proportion of rural dwellers having access. However, progress was minimal in sub-Saharan Africa, whether in urban or rural areas, and rural access declined in the Commonwealth of Independent States and the developing countries of Oceania. Given these trends, the world is unlikely to reach the millennium development target of halving the proportion of people lacking access to improved sanitation between 1990 and 2015. The number of persons lacking access is projected to fall in rural areas while it rises in urban areas, yet the number of rural residents lacking access to improved sanitation in 2015 is expected to be twice that in urban areas.[10]

52. In 2005, nearly a quarter of the world's people lacked access to electricity, 80 per cent of whom lived in rural areas. Whereas access in developed countries is virtually universal, in developing countries 15 per cent of urban dwellers and 44 per cent of rural inhabitants live without electricity. Sub-Saharan Africa has by far the highest proportions without access in both rural (92 per cent) and urban areas (42 per cent). Access is also relatively poor in South Asia, where 55 per cent of rural residents and 30 per cent of urban residents live without electricity. Those two regions account for 80 per cent of people lacking access to electricity today.

53. Using DHS data, an analysis of access to services by place of residence corroborates that there are major gaps in developing countries between urban and rural areas in the provision of services.[6] Furthermore, smaller cities, particularly those with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants, are less well served than larger ones, and the urban poor have significantly less access to basic services than other urban residents.

54. In urban areas, lack of access to services is often associated with the poor housing conditions typical of slums. UN-Habitat characterizes slum households as urban households lacking one or more of the following: durable housing, sufficient living area, access to an improved water source, access to improved sanitation or secure tenure. In 2005, 37 per cent of the urban population of developing countries lived in slums, representing some 840 million people.[11] Asia had the highest number of slum-dwellers (542 million), 201 million of whom lived in China and another

[11] *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.I.15).

113 million in India. Africa had 179 million and Latin America and the Caribbean 117 million. About half of the slum households in sub-Saharan Africa suffer from two or more of the types of deprivation identified above, and in both South Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean about 35 per cent do so. In most regions, the lack of adequate sanitation and excessive crowding are the most common types of deficiency.[12]

55. Access to educational services also varies by type of residence. Average levels of educational attainment are higher in urban than in rural areas. They are also higher in larger cities, particularly those with more than a million inhabitants, than in smaller cities, but there is substantial diversity among cities of all sizes.[6] Levels of school enrolment are higher in urban than in rural areas, and they are somewhat higher in larger than in smaller cities. Poor children in urban areas are less likely to be enrolled in school than other urban children.

VII. Urbanization and demographic behaviour

56. In the major areas of the developing world, the difference between rural and urban fertility has remained roughly constant since 1970. In most countries, the rural population has the highest fertility, the lowest level of contraceptive use and the highest level of unmet need for family planning. Rural births are the least likely to be attended by trained medical personnel. Rural women are also usually the most likely to depend on government-supported family planning services for contraception and are least likely to know that the risk of contracting HIV can be reduced by using condoms and by limiting the number of sexual partners. In addition, in many countries there are large gaps in demographic behaviour and outcomes between the urban poor and other urban residents. More often than not, the urban poor exhibit levels of fertility, use of modern contraceptives and unmet need closer to those of the rural population than to those of the other urban population.[13]

57. Total fertility tends to be higher and use of modern contraceptives lower in smaller cities (those with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants). The major exception is South-East Asia, where the differences in fertility and contraceptive use between the rural population, that in small cities and that in larger urban centres are small, mainly because of the emphasis Governments have placed on providing family planning services in rural areas.[6]

58. Despite the differences noted, the urban advantage in terms of reproductive health and access to family planning is smaller than expected. Although urban women have lower levels of unmet need for family planning than rural women, the incidence of mistimed or unwanted births does not appear to be lower in cities. Furthermore, the urban poor are little better off than rural residents in several aspects of reproductive health and access to services. They often lack the information necessary to make good decisions about reproductive health. People living in smaller cities are also disadvantaged in terms of access to reproductive health services.

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[12] UN-Habitat, *State of the World's Cities 2006/7* (London, Earthscan, 2006).

[13] United Nations Population Fund, *State of the World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth.*

59. With regard to health and mortality, the evidence available indicates that life expectancy is generally greater in urban than in rural areas, although most developing countries lack separate urban and rural estimates of lifetime mortality risks. Survey information on the health status of residents of selected cities in developing countries indicates that the epidemiological transition, which entails a shift in the primary causes of morbidity and mortality from communicable diseases to chronic and degenerative diseases, is more advanced in the cities than in the rural areas of the developing world. This trend parallels that experienced historically by developed countries where the epidemiological transition started in cities but is today advanced in both urban and rural areas. However, in many cities in Africa, the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic has stalled the epidemiological transition and the reduction of mortality.

60. The prevalence of chronic disease (including cardiovascular disease, cancers and diabetes) and accidents is increasing in many cities of the developing world. Traffic accidents, in particular, are a significant cause of injury or death with higher incidence in urban areas. Growing consumption of sweeteners and fats in the more urbanized developing countries is producing higher levels of obesity, associated in turn with higher incidence of diabetes or cardiovascular disease. In contrast, in the least urbanized countries, high rates of infectious disease and maternal mortality remain common in rural areas.

61. According to an assessment of urban-rural differentials in childhood mortality based on DHS data, infant and child mortality are on average higher in rural than in urban areas.[6] Better urban public infrastructure, higher levels of maternal education and better access to health care in cities are largely responsible for those differences. The evidence does not show a systematic erosion over time of such urban advantage, except in sub-Saharan Africa, where high HIV/AIDS prevalence in cities seems to have stalled or reversed the decline in urban child mortality. In six countries in Africa, child mortality increased in both urban and rural areas.

62. The urban advantage in terms of child survival is buttressed by other findings. If health is assessed in terms of height for age, children in urban areas are significantly healthier than those in rural areas. Moreover, in Latin America, children living in larger cities are better off in terms of height by age than those residing in smaller urban centres.

63. Although urban children overall may be healthier on average than rural children, those in poor urban families are generally worse off than other urban children and, in some cases, may fare worse than rural children. In nearly all countries, poor urban children are shorter and weigh less for their age than other urban children. Considering weight for height, poor urban children are generally heavier than rural children, but in 16 countries the reverse obtains. In general, poor urban children face greater mortality risks than other urban children, although those risks are usually not as high as those faced by rural children.

64. Studies comparing the health status of rural children with that of children living in urban slums arrive at conclusions similar to those comparing rural children with the urban poor.[12] Rural children, for instance, are less likely than children living in urban slums to have received measles vaccinations. Both groups experience episodes of diarrhoea or acute respiratory infections with similar frequency, and in most of the countries considered (31 out of 44) the proportion of underweight children in slums is within 2 percentage points of the proportion in

rural areas. In another 12 countries, rural children are more likely to be underweight than children living in urban slums. Indicators of the use of medical services, such as care-seeking for ill children or assistance by qualified attendants when women give birth, tend to show substantially lower levels of access for rural residents than for people living in urban slums.

VIII. Population distribution policies

65. In 2007, 85 per cent of Governments expressed concern about their pattern of population distribution, a percentage comparable to that recorded in the 1970s. Among developing countries, 56 per cent wished to make a major change in the spatial distribution of their populations, whereas 32 per cent desired a minor change. Among developed countries, 37 per cent desired a major change and 39 per cent a minor change. Dissatisfaction regarding patterns of population distribution was highest in Africa (74 per cent of its countries desired a major change) and Asia (51 per cent desired a major change). In Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania and Europe, about 40 per cent of Governments considered that major changes in spatial distribution were desirable (see figure VII).

Figure VII
Government views on the spatial distribution of their populations, 2007

66. Reducing or even reversing the flow of rural-urban migrants has been the most common policy pursued by Governments wishing to change the spatial distribution of the population. Strategies used to retain the population in rural areas include establishing internal migration controls, undertaking land redistribution, creating regional development zones and, more recently, promoting economic diversification and competitiveness in rural areas through the mobilization of investment and the improvement of rural livelihoods. As a result of such recent policies, jobs in rural areas in a third of OECD countries have increased markedly.[14] By 2007, 70 per cent

[14] *The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance* (Paris, OECD Publishing, 2006).

of all countries had implemented policies to reduce rural-urban migration. Among developing countries, 73 per cent had done so, compared to 62 per cent of developed countries. In Africa, 83 per cent of countries had policies to reduce rural-urban migration, whereas 73 per cent of those in Asia and Oceania had such policies.

67. The second most common policy is aimed at reducing migrant flows to large cities. The percentage of developing countries with such policies rose from 44 per cent to 74 per cent in between 1976 and 2007. Among developed countries, the proportion of those with policies to reduce flows to large cities declined from 55 per cent in 1975 to 26 per cent in 1996 and then rebounded to reach 39 per cent in 2007. In Oceania, 83 per cent of countries have such policies, in Africa 78 per cent, in Asia 71 per cent and in Latin America and the Caribbean 68 per cent.

68. Other types of policies used to shape the spatial distribution of the population have had fewer adherents. Fewer than 4 in 10 Governments have policies to promote urban-rural migration to relieve population pressure on city infrastructure and reduce urban unemployment. These measures have been more common among developing countries (44 per cent have used them) than among developed countries (19 per cent have used them). In Africa and Asia, 55 per cent and 64 per cent of countries, respectively, have pursued such policies.

69. Fourteen per cent of countries have policies encouraging urban-urban migration, mostly from large to smaller cities. Such policies reflect the view that, beyond a certain size, cities become less efficient and productive.[1] These policies are common in countries where one city accounts for a large proportion of the urban population. About a fifth of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and of those in Oceania have such policies, as do 17 per cent of those in Africa and 16 per cent of those in Asia. The establishment of new cities and the relocation of capitals are strategies to foster urban relocation.

70. Some developed countries have adopted measures to reduce migration from cities to rural areas in order to control urban sprawl and its environmental consequences. Concerns about pollution, traffic congestion and commuting times have prompted Governments to limit the encroachment of urban settlements into surrounding rural areas. Fifteen per cent of the countries in Europe and 4 per cent of those in Asia have implemented such policies.

71. Governments have also undertaken initiatives to improve the quality of life in and the sustainability of cities. These policies include regulations regarding urban growth, zoning, land subdivision and building codes or standards. They may also focus on public land acquisition and allocation, investment in public infrastructure and facilities, and fostering public-private partnerships in urban development projects. In New York City, for instance, a new strategy proposes building housing for an additional million people, increasing access to parklands, updating the ageing water network, modernizing power plants and reducing water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The plan also includes congestion pricing to reduce traffic in the central business district. Congestion pricing has been successful in reducing traffic in Bergen, London, Malta, Oslo, Singapore, Stockholm and Trondheim.

72. In developing countries, many Governments have taken measures to improve the quality of life in poor urban areas. In India, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission began in 2005 to provide funding for projects to improve

infrastructure and increase access to basic services for the urban poor in Indian cities. The Government of Burkina Faso has been working to provide access to water and sanitation for all the inhabitants of Ouagadougou, a third of whom live in slums. For the urban poor, access to secure land tenure is particularly relevant. Projects to provide titles and security of tenure for people living in slums are being undertaken in many countries.

73. Overall, the spatial distribution of the population is linked to the territorial distribution of economic and social opportunities. Urbanization is shaped by the clustering of productive activity, where firms benefit from proximity to other firms, whether in the same industry or in complementary sectors. Beneficial urbanization depends on the availability and quality of public services, including access to electricity, water, education and health services, transportation and communication. Higher national road densities and greater government expenditures on transport contribute to spatial deconcentration of productive activities and population.

74. In many countries, decentralization has given local governments more functions and new powers to raise revenue. Common to most of these reforms are greater openness and accountability, increased involvement of civil society, greater participation of women in local decision-making and the devolution of legal and fiscal responsibilities to local governments in charge of urban affairs. The governance of large urban agglomerations faces the additional challenge of coordinating multiple jurisdictions and promoting coherent administrative and policy solutions for the benefit of all the inhabitants of large metropolitan areas.

IX. Conclusions and recommendations

75. In 2008, the number of urban dwellers (3.4 billion) will equal, for the first time in history, the number of rural dwellers. According to current projections, the world can expect the urban population to increase by 3.1 billion persons by 2050, whereas the rural population will peak at 3.5 billion around 2019 and decline thereafter. Virtually the full increase in the urban population is expected to occur in developing countries. Natural increase continues to make sizeable contributions to urban population growth, often accounting for 60 per cent or more of that growth. Internal migration permits a reallocation of the labour force to more productive activities and opens up opportunities for migrants that are not available at their place of origin. Urbanization is a process that is intrinsically related to development, and it must be managed in ways that maximize its potential benefits and prevent its negative consequences.

76. The improvement of service delivery to the urban poor and to the inhabitants of small cities and rural areas needs to be given priority. Services that are most conducive to improving the well-being of the populations involved include those related to health delivery, including reproductive health, schooling and access to improved sanitation and to improved and secure sources of drinking water.

77. In deciding the location of public health facilities, authorities should consider their accessibility to poor urban dwellers. The location of such facilities in small towns linked to surrounding rural areas can also improve the access of rural dwellers to health services.

78. **To reduce the potential population growth in urban and rural areas alike, priority should be given to meeting the needs of poor urban dwellers and rural inhabitants for family planning. Without sustained reductions in fertility in both urban and rural areas, the urban population in developing countries will grow faster than projected.**

79. **Because HIV prevalence is generally higher in urban than in rural areas, priority should be given to the provision of adequate information on the prevention of HIV infection and treatment services to urban dwellers and to temporary rural-urban migrants.**

80. **In addressing the needs of the older population, Governments need to take into account that, in many contexts, a higher proportion of the older population lives in rural than in urban areas.**

81. **There continues to be a need for poverty reduction strategies to focus on the rural poor in developing countries. Ensuring secure land tenure, improving access to water resources, encouraging investment to enhance agricultural productivity, developing rural infrastructure and facilitating access to credit are measures to consider for the improvement of rural livelihoods. Integrated development strategies that capitalize on the interactions between small cities and neighbouring rural localities can provide a framework for the generation of off-farm employment for rural residents.**

82. **A fundamental task of urban governance is the management of diversity and inequality. To assess the relevance of these factors in settlements of different types and sizes, spatially disaggregated data are indispensable. The development of local databases that reflect local realities and inform policy, planning and investment decisions at the local level is urgently needed.**

83. **In order to accommodate future urban growth, local authorities need to plan ahead, especially by providing the urban poor with serviced land to build and improve their own housing. In doing so, measures to secure property rights are indispensable. Such measures should ensure that women's property rights are equal to those of men. By regulating and orienting urban expansion, local authorities can minimize the urban footprint and be proactive in preventing environmental degradation and reducing the environmental vulnerability of the poor.**

84. **To increase the effectiveness of policies aimed at improving the lives of urban dwellers, particularly the poor or those living in slums, local authorities should encourage and support the active involvement of civil society organizations representing the relevant groups. Local organizations of the urban poor and non-governmental organizations have proved that their collective efforts can improve housing, infrastructure and services, greatly alleviating and reducing urban poverty.**

85. **The higher payoff for schooling in urban than in rural areas is a key factor in inducing the migration of the better educated. In countries where economic growth has been moderate or strong, urban returns to schooling have been maintained, profoundly influencing decisions about investing in children's schooling and family size. In most settings, rural-urban migrants are able to attain earnings comparable to those of native urbanites after an adjustment period. The accumulation of physical capital, technological change and**

investment in urban areas contributes to this outcome. Authorities should focus on propitiating such changes to promote economic growth and do less to prevent rural-urban migration per se.

86. As the world becomes increasingly urban, decisions taken today in cities across the world will shape the economic, social and environmental future of humankind. Properly managed, urbanization can help in combating poverty, inequality and environmental degradation, but action to capitalize on the opportunities it presents and to address the challenges it raises must be prompt and sustained.

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World population monitoring, focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 13, last line

For India (0.9 million) *read* India (0.9 billion)

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Monitoring of population programmes focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in response to the topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme of the Commission on Population and Development, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/55. The special theme for the forty-first session of the Commission was finalized in its decision 2006/101.

2. The report examines the unprecedented transformation of world population from rural to urban, brought about by migration from rural areas to cities and the natural increase of the urban population, as well as the reclassification of settlements that were previously considered rural. It examines the economic, social, demographic and environmental implications of urbanization and describes some common misconceptions about urban areas. It also presents a call to action in order to unleash the potential of urban growth. The report describes the programmatic work of UNFPA to assist countries throughout the world in responding to the challenges of rapid urbanization, especially in the areas of policy dialogue, capacity-building, data collection, research and advocacy.

II. The urban transformation

3. This year, for the first time in history, more than half of the world's population will be living in urban areas. More than 10 years ago, UNFPA predicted in its report *State of World Population 1996 — Changing Places: Population, Development and the Urban Future* that the growth of cities would be the single largest influence on development in the twenty-first century. This is indeed the case today. In 2008, about 3.3 billion people are estimated to be living in towns and cities.[1] The number and proportion of urban dwellers will continue to grow rapidly. The urban population is expected to reach 4.9 billion in 2030. At the same time, the world's rural population will decrease by about 28 million between 2005 and 2030. At the global level, all future population growth is expected to be in urban areas.

4. Globally, 29 per cent of the world's population was urban in 1950, increasing to 37 per cent in 1975 and 49 per cent in 2005. By 2030, 60 per cent of the world's population will be living in urban areas. Urbanization is an inevitable phenomenon.

5. There are marked differences in the level and pace of urbanization among the regions. Africa and Asia are currently the least urbanized regions, but by 2030 they will have the most urban dwellers. In fact, most of the urban growth will be in developing countries. The scale of ongoing urban growth is unprecedented in history. The urban population of Africa and Asia is expected to double between 2000 and 2030. It will also continue to grow, although more slowly, in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result, developing countries will have 80 per cent of the world's urban population by 2030. In the developed world, the urban population will

[1] Statistics in this section of the report are taken from UNFPA, 2007, *State of World Population 2007: Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth* and United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2006, *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2005 Revision.*

continue to grow, but at a much slower pace, increasing from 870 million to 1.01 billion from 2000 to 2030.

III. Implications for development

6. The urban transformation has significant economic, social, demographic and environmental implications. The phenomenon of urbanization is particularly significant because it is happening mostly in developing countries and the increases in urban population are very large and occurring very rapidly.

7. Urbanization can play a positive role in social and economic development. Cities generally have greater potential for reducing poverty than rural areas. As the main centres of economic growth in most countries, cities account for a larger share of national economic production. Proximity and concentration result in economies of scale, which means that cities can provide cheaper and better access to basic infrastructure and social and health services for their populations. Cities provide more access to the benefits of technology and globalization than is typical in rural areas. There is also more potential for interaction and social organization in cities. Social mobility commonly accompanies urban migration.

8. To benefit from the advantages of cities, countries will need to respond to the new realities with appropriate policies and programmes to address unplanned urban growth in a proactive manner, building on its dynamism to reduce poverty and promote sustainability.

9. Addressing these challenges is an urgent development priority with implications for global economic growth, poverty alleviation, population stabilization and environmental sustainability. Issues such as addressing the needs of the poor, improving housing and living conditions, ensuring access to basic social services and generating employment must be addressed with a culture-, gender- and rights-based approach.

10. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[2] urged Governments to strengthen their capacity to respond to the pressures caused by rapid urbanization by revising and reorienting the agencies and mechanisms for urban management as necessary and ensuring the wide participation of all population groups in planning and decision-making on local development. The Programme of Action further called on Governments to respond to the needs of all citizens, including urban squatters, for personal safety, basic infrastructure and services, to eliminate health and social problems, including problems of drugs and criminality, and problems resulting from overcrowding and disasters. The Millennium Declaration called attention to urban poverty and urged the international community to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020.[3]

11. Rapid urbanization brings with it a host of new challenges and requires the development of sound public policy to ensure that the needs of all in society are

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[2] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap.I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2, para. 19.

adequately met. Sound urban management and planning ahead for future urban growth are essential to unleash the potential of urban growth.

12. There are many misconceptions and myths about cities. The most important one is the widespread belief among policymakers that urbanization is inherently bad. In fact, urbanization has many potential advantages. Cities typically offer more employment opportunities and better information, communications and technology. They provide more opportunities for educational and cultural enrichment, as well as empowerment of women and youth. Cities also offer better access to health facilities and basic services. The density and concentration found in cities is necessary for the preservation of rural biodiversity. This explains why migrants typically express a preference for city life over the rural life they left behind. People continue to flock to cities in search of opportunities. Social mobility commonly accompanies urban migration. Moreover, remittances sent by urban dwellers to families in rural areas help alleviate rural poverty and facilitate rural development.

13. Another aspect of the anti-urban bias is the common misconception that rural-to-urban migration can, and should, be stopped. Indeed, most debate centres on how to prevent urban growth rather than how to cope with it. The fact is that most policymakers, concerned with the speed and magnitude of growth, are increasingly set against urbanization and urban growth. The real issue is not that cities grow too fast, but that Governments are not prepared to absorb urban growth. Draconian controls and evictions simply do not work. People will continue to migrate and to live in cities because they perceive the advantages of living in urban areas. Preventing migration increases poverty in both rural and urban areas.

14. It is commonly believed that urban growth is due primarily to migration from rural to urban areas. In fact, most urban growth, 60 per cent, is actually due to natural increase, or an excess of births over deaths. As a country urbanizes, natural increase predominates because there are more people in urban areas and because the pool of potential migrants is reduced. Forty per cent of urban growth is due to a combination of rural-to-urban migration and the reclassification of rural areas.

15. Another common misconception is that most urban growth occurs in mega-cities of 10 million or more inhabitants. In fact, most growth occurs in smaller cities. The majority of urbanites live in cities of fewer than 500,000 inhabitants. In 2005, only 9.3 per cent of the world's urban population lived in mega-cities. This trend is not expected to change. In fact, in 2015, 9.4 per cent of the population will be living in mega-cities.

16. It is commonly believed that the poor are a small minority in cities. The fact is that in developing countries, the poor make up a large proportion of city growth. Poverty is currently increasing faster in cities than in rural areas. One billion people already live in slums, most of them in the developing world. Poverty, begging and homelessness are common in many cities throughout the world. Poor housing conditions cause much of human misery. Years of urban mismanagement have resulted in overcrowding, lack of public services, lack of clean water, lack of sanitation and inadequate infrastructure in many cities in developing countries.

17. The problem is that urban policies often do not address the needs of the poor effectively, yet future urban growth will mainly involve poor people. The voices of the poor are seldom heard, slum-dwellers are usually excluded from decision-making, the poor are marginalized; cities are typically planned for a minority. City-

dwellers who are better off financially are often the beneficiaries of programmes devised for the urban poor.

IV. Unleashing the potential of urban growth

18. Urbanization and urban growth are inevitable. The primary source of urban growth comes from natural increase within the cities themselves. Also, it is difficult to stop the flow of migrants who come from the countryside to seek better opportunities in urban areas. Cities are not just about slums, social unrest and traffic congestion: they are places of opportunity and hope. Indeed, there is no significant economic growth without urbanization. Although urban areas have their problems, including crime, pollution and overcrowding, the potential benefits of cities far outweigh the disadvantages. One of the main reasons that cities are not currently taking full advantage of their potential is poor governance.

19. The challenge is to learn how to exploit the possibilities that cities offer. First and foremost, it is necessary to dispel stereotypes and common misconceptions about cities. Policymakers must accept the inevitability of urban growth. Coping with the growth of cities requires a proactive attitude. Given the fast pace of urbanization in developing countries, reacting after the fact is no longer an option. A longer-term vision is essential to plan ahead for the social and sustainable use of urban space. Shelter is the most critical aspect of poor people's insertion into cities. The poor are the ones most affected by unregulated land markets. It is important to ensure minimally serviced and secure land so that the poor have security of tenure. Dealing with haphazard spontaneous slum growth after it has taken shape and established itself is much more costly, both financially and in terms of human suffering.

20. It is essential to contest incorrect policies and suggest better approaches. Anti-urban policies must be replaced by proactive measures in order to break the cycle of poverty. Policies must be designed in accordance with the expressed needs of diverse demographic groups in cities, especially organizations of the urban poor. Smart, foresighted policies can unleash the positive potential of urban growth and contribute to poverty reduction. Good data for informed decision-making, demographic analysis and projections should be used to anticipate and quantify urban growth and foresee the spatial needs of the poor. Urban growth in small and medium-sized cities offers the most flexibility for effective action and has the greatest need for support.

21. The location and form of city growth will make a significant difference for the environment. It is essential to formulate policies for the sustainable use of urban space. Programmes must be put in place to ensure housing and basic social services to meet the needs of all. Policies aimed at improving shelter have a significant impact on poverty reduction. Urban water and sewage treatment improve health and reduce mortality. The anti-migration approach that still prevails in many countries should be replaced with policies that promote social development, investments in health and education, and empowerment of women. The urban poor should be encouraged to become involved in decision-making that affects them.

22. Policies that address urban growth should not come at the expense of rural areas. Indeed, the successful development of one sector automatically benefits the other.

V. Population programmes to address the challenges of population distribution, urbanization and internal migration

23. The United Nations Population Fund supports key population, urbanization and sustainable development activities at the global, regional and country levels. UNFPA seeks to influence public policy to respond to the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and to meet the needs of all persons, especially the poor and most vulnerable. The Fund seeks to raise awareness of the interrelationships among global population growth, demographic dynamics, urbanization, the environment, sustainable development and poverty reduction. UNFPA encourages policy dialogue, capacity-building, data collection, research and advocacy as part of a good strategy for policy and programmatic support. The Fund has a rights-based and culture- and gender-sensitive approach.

24. UNFPA facilitates policy dialogue on addressing the implications of rapid urban growth among all stakeholders, advocates for the incorporation of population and urbanization issues into national development frameworks and poverty reduction strategies, and supports initiatives to improve data, research and institutional capacity for formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating population policies and programmes to address the challenges of rapid urbanization and to meet the needs of all, especially the urban poor.

25. UNFPA encourages the inclusion of the urban poor in decision-making in matters that concern them. The Fund advocates for the empowerment of women and their participation in sustainable urban development. It supports activities that promote access to basic social services, including health care, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and shelter for all.

26. UNFPA continues to provide directed policy, advocacy and technical support at critical policy, programme and monitoring levels to ensure that urbanization is recognized as an important factor in development and that the potential of urban growth is realized.

Policy formulation

27. UNFPA country offices are often called upon to assist Governments in formulating policies and national strategies relating to population distribution, internal migration and urbanization. For example, in Benin, UNFPA supported the formulation of a population policy that addresses, inter alia, urbanization and migration issues. In Burkina Faso, UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the convening of a national symposium on migration. In Cambodia, UNFPA seeks to update policymakers on the latest development trends and share best practices for timely and evidence-based policymaking. UNFPA in Cambodia sits as an observer on the recently established inter-ministerial Task Force on Migration, which is co-chaired by the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training. The Task Force was organized to facilitate information exchange, strengthen policy development and implementation, and assist in the coordination of interventions by national and international institutions in the area of migration. One of the Fund's governmental implementing partners, the National Committee for Population and Development, has a seat in the Office of the Council

of Ministers and is in a prime position to influence national policy debate in this area.

28. In Ethiopia, UNFPA participated in supporting the Government in the formulation of the national development plan — the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (2005/6-2009/10). The UNFPA country office in Ethiopia has been supporting the Government in the implementation of the national population policy since its inception, in 1993. For example, it has supported the consultative meetings for the establishment of various policy-implementation administrative structures, including the national and regional population councils. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNFPA supported the revision of the National Population and Development Policy, one of the objectives of which was to address rural-to-urban migration by focusing on rural development, including secure land entitlements, investments in education, job creation and improved social services, including health services. The UNFPA publication *State of World Population 2007*, which addressed the challenges of urbanization, was launched in the presence of ministers and some 80 other Government officials. The Committee for Planning and Investment requested a copy of the UNFPA presentation for advocacy purposes. In Mauritania, UNFPA supported the formulation of the country's population policy that addresses migration and urbanization.

29. UNFPA in Nigeria supported the formulation of the country's National Population Policy, which addresses urbanization and internal migration. In Rwanda, UNFPA supported the formulation of the country's population policy that addresses urbanization and internal migration issues. UNFPA also provided support for, and participated in, the formulation of the economic development and poverty reduction strategy and sought to ensure that population issues, including urbanization and internal migration, were an integral part of the national development framework. In Senegal, UNFPA participated in the positioning of migration and urbanization issues within the framework of the poverty reduction strategy papers review. UNFPA in Sierra Leone provides support for the review of the National Population Policy, which will address concerns related to urbanization and internal migration.

Data collection and research

30. UNFPA supports the collection of data and research for evidence-based policy formulation and programme implementation. In the Arab region, UNFPA provides support to the League of Arab States for a project on population and family health that aims to provide ministries of health and other bodies with a reliable databank of up-to-date, high-quality information in the areas of population, health and development for use in formulating social policies, as well as strengthening national capacities to gather and utilize the data. The project's scope includes data on issues such as urban conditions and the well-being of migrants, marginalized groups and refugees. A specific survey was conducted in the Palestinian camps in the Syrian Arab Republic. In Benin, UNFPA supported the Institut national de la statistique et de l'analyse économique in the collection and dissemination of population data, including a study of urban migration and socio-economic characteristics of migrants. UNFPA in Benin works with the Government to incorporate demographic factors into development plans and programmes. A report on the state of the population is produced each year in collaboration with the Government. In 2005, when the theme was migration and development, the report sought to analyse the

linkages between migration, poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. UNFPA in Benin also supported studies using migration and urbanization data from the population census.

31. In Bolivia, UNFPA collaborated in studies addressing urbanization issues and in 2004 provided technical and financial support for the development of a study on internal migration in the country, which is considered the most complete document in this field. UNFPA in Bolivia also supported two studies in two municipalities of La Paz on the process of metropolitanization of the La Paz area and is supporting prospective studies on the demographic impacts of a mega-project on iron-ore mining in the eastern part of the country, which will generate very important internal migration flows. In Burkina Faso, UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the collection of data, including on population dynamics and distribution, and thematic studies on migration and urbanization. UNFPA in Burkina Faso also provides technical support for a number of studies, including on rural out-migration, urbanization and poverty and on the dynamics of internal migration. In Burundi, which has suffered from years of conflict resulting in mass displacements of the population, UNFPA is leading international assistance and providing technical support for the long-awaited national census, scheduled to take place in 2008. In Cambodia, UNFPA successfully advocated for more detailed information on migration in the upcoming 2008 census. UNFPA in Cambodia commissioned research on rural-urban migration of youth and its impact on urbanization. The main areas of research, based on interviews with migrant youths and their families in the country of origin, are socio-economic background of migrant households; reasons for migration; social networks of the migrants; integration of migrants in the urban environment and access to services; employment of migrants in the urban areas; and migrants' relationship with the sending household.

32. In Eritrea, UNFPA supported the country in conducting an urban census in 19 areas of the country in 2005 and 2006. UNFPA plans to conduct a study on the interrelationships between urban agriculture, internal migration and poverty reduction in the country. In Ethiopia, UNFPA supported the country in conducting the 2007 population and housing census. The census provided information on urbanization and internal migration issues, serving as a major source of data for national and regional policy and programme formulation. UNFPA was among the major partners supporting the country's demographic and health survey and is currently conducting an in-depth analysis of three major topics of the survey relating to urbanization and internal migration: (a) determinants fuelling the spread of HIV and contributing factors for regional disparities, (b) maternal mortality and (c) gender analysis and reproductive health. UNFPA in Ethiopia is also finalizing a report on a survey assessing gender-based violence in emergency situations in two locations for internally displaced persons.

33. In Honduras, UNFPA supported research on internal migration and its effects on labour market participation and poverty. In Indonesia, UNFPA collaborates in the collection of data on urban issues. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNFPA supported the 2005 reproductive health survey, which was disaggregated by rural and urban areas and provided information about differentials in access to social services. Besides information on such topics as fertility, mortality and family planning, the survey also collects data on, inter alia, household access to electricity, drinking water and material for housing. In Nicaragua, UNFPA supported a number of studies, some of which served as inputs to the National Development Plan

requested by the Technical Secretariat of the presidency, including research on trends in the spatial distribution of the population and internal migration; competitiveness and territorial distribution of economic activities in the country; competitiveness and regional growth; spatial mobility of the population at the beginning of the twenty-first century; changes in the spatial distribution of the population, the urban system and local economic growth from 1995 to 2005; and rural-urban migration and rural development from 1995 to 2005.

34. In Mauritania, UNFPA supported data collection on migration and urbanization in a number of census rounds. UNFPA in Mauritania also supported in-depth analysis and research on the findings of the Mauritania survey on migration. UNFPA in Mozambique supported research studies on urbanization and migration under a partnership with the Centre for Population Studies at Eduardo Mondlane University. In Pakistan, UNFPA worked with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics to publish a report on urbanization and internal migration in the country; the report was launched with the UNFPA publication *State of World Population 2007*. UNFPA in Pakistan is working with the Population Census Organization on the 2008 census, which will provide new data on the rural and urban population and information on the phenomenon of internal migration and urbanization. In Rwanda, UNFPA supported data collection for the country's census, which provided information on urbanization and internal migration and formed the basis of policy formulation and integration of population in the national development framework. In Senegal, UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the demographic health survey and the census that included urbanization and internal migration as important issues.

35. In Sierra Leone, UNFPA supported the country in conducting the census, the analysis of which includes a monograph on urbanization and migration that is being used, along with other modules, for development planning. UNFPA in Sierra Leone supports the Institute of Population Studies at Fourah Bay College and funds the training of demographers. UNFPA in Viet Nam supported policy research to better understand migration in the country and the economic and social conditions in which migrants live. UNFPA provided support to the General Statistical Office to carry out a migration survey in 2004 and published a report entitled "Internal migration in Viet Nam: the current situation", which describes, inter alia, the levels and patterns of internal migration in the country; the decision to migrate; adjustment to life in the place of destination; health, work and income; satisfaction with migration; and migrant links with the home community. UNFPA works to ensure that the 2009 census includes information on migration for social and economic planning.

Capacity-building

36. UNFPA also promotes capacity-building by supporting training institutions and by providing technical assistance. In Benin, UNFPA provided technical and financial support for the analysis of census results, including data on migration. In Brazil, UNFPA supported a number of meetings and training courses for government officials, academia and civil society that addressed the issue of internal migration, including a session on the relationship between urban and social networks and internal migration. In Burkina Faso, UNFPA seeks to strengthen country capacity to collect and analyse data. In Cambodia, UNFPA convened a series of workshops on urbanization and migration in collaboration with the National Committee for

Population and Development. Participants included representatives of key ministries, development agencies, civil society, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders. Among the issues discussed were migration and the informal economy of the urban poor, empowering migrant women in the poor community, urban management, urban poverty, low-income housing, community development and planning, and increased traffic, mobility and congestion in urban areas.

37. In Colombia, UNFPA supported the development of a conceptual and methodological approach to consider the linkages between population factors and environmental, social and economic issues in the context of urban and regional planning and territorial development. UNFPA also assisted in the technical support and training of local staff in several municipalities to use the methodology. The municipality of Sopo was able to redefine the use of its local territory taking into consideration population trends and future scenarios. In Eritrea, UNFPA is the main partner of the National Statistics Office, together with the Government of Norway, and is supporting collaboration with the central region of Asmara in order to establish a civil registration system that will be a source of information on the population in the capital. In Ghana, UNFPA plans to support a proposed study on street vending in Ghana's cities and towns, with specific focus on the socio-economic, sexual and reproductive health dimensions. The study will address the twin problems of urbanization and migration, since most street vendors are migrants. Other studies planned include research on female migration in Ghana to better understand the issues pertaining to this phenomenon, and a major national study on urbanization and development initiated by the National Population Council. In Mauritania, UNFPA supported training for National Statistical Office staff and university researchers.

38. In Mexico, UNFPA seeks to strengthen institutional capacity and civil society participation to formulate integral population and sustainable development policies and strategies at the national and subnational levels and contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequalities. UNFPA in Mexico partnered with the Government, academia and NGOs in various regional projects, including those designed to strengthen institutional and municipal capacity through participatory development planning; increase understanding of sexual and reproductive rights and access to health services for indigenous and migrant women in a number of areas; develop an information system on migration in Oaxaca; analyse the social and economic impact of migratory flows and establish prospective scenarios for urban, economic and social planning; study "floating populations" along the northern and southern borders of the country as well as in the larger metropolitan areas; and develop a conceptual and methodological approach to sustainable development and population aimed at supporting an integral planning model at the local and micro-regional levels. Issues of population distribution, urbanization and internal migration are also included in the next UNFPA country programme for Mexico.

39. UNFPA in Mozambique provides scholarships for the Centre for Population Studies to build the capacity of researchers in the area of migration and urbanization to contribute to the evidence base required by policymakers. In Nicaragua, UNFPA gives short-term scholarships to national university researchers and professors and supports regional experts so that they can provide technical assistance in the development of specific research. In Peru, UNFPA conducted a technical mission with key government officials, including the President of the Council of Ministers,

the Minister for Women and Social Development, the Vice-Minister of Housing, Congressmen and mayors, as well as academics, to discuss the relationship between spatial distribution of the population and delivery of social services. The mission provided a better understanding of the need to promote and strengthen the role of intermediate cities and urban centres. The initiative, which will guide UNFPA technical assistance and will help to better define the strategic direction in this area, has several important ramifications: it will foster the consideration of population dynamics in national planning and policy formulation; promote regional and local planning that encourages concentration of the population in provincial mid-level urban centres as a means of more cost-effective delivery of reproductive health services; encourage the strategic localization of social service hubs in rural areas, with special consideration given to mountainous and jungle-type environments; and help develop a capacity-building programme that would help the Government foresee areas of potential quick economic development, such as main production centres, that will have a pull effect on population in more depressed areas.

40. In Rwanda, UNFPA supported the training of national planners on the integration of population issues, including urbanization and internal migration, in the national development framework. In Senegal, thanks to the efforts of UNFPA, the curriculum of the Institute of Population, Development and Reproductive Health of the Cheikh Anta Diop University, supported by UNFPA includes migration and urbanization issues. UNFPA in Senegal seeks to increase knowledge of those phenomena for a better understanding of population dynamics and the planning of development interventions, especially as they affect poverty and vulnerability in urban settings. In Viet Nam, UNFPA supported the recruitment of international and national consultants to assist the General Statistical Office in designing the migration survey and to assist other national research institutions in analysing migration data.

Advocacy

41. UNFPA in Brazil launched the Fund's *State of World Population 2007* to raise awareness of the importance of addressing the challenges of urbanization. In Burkina Faso, UNFPA used the occasion of the national symposium on migration to advocate for the International Conference on Population and Development agenda in the area of migration and call attention to the necessity of including migration issues in development plans and programmes. In Cambodia, UNFPA is collaborating with the National Committee for Population and Development and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the development of a policy brief or fact sheet on urbanization that covers such topics as indicators of urbanization, urban population growth and economic activities, urban problems, urban migration trends, urban poverty, urban environment and services, and urban governance. UNFPA in Cambodia was interviewed by the national English-language newspaper on the topic of urbanization. In the Caribbean, UNFPA advocates for the inclusion of population issues, including urbanization and internal migration, into development plans, strategies and frameworks. In China, UNFPA implements advocacy activities relating to reproductive health among migrants. These activities include information, education and communication materials concerning HIV prevention, in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways.

42. In Eritrea, UNFPA advocates for an understanding of the country's rural and urban development strategies and their consequences for urbanization and internal migration, and the importance of understanding the population and development equation and including it in policy formulation and development planning. UNFPA used the opportunity of the launch of the *State of World Population 2007* report to raise awareness of the importance of the phenomenon of urbanization for national and regional development. The UNFPA country office prepared a programme update entitled "Eritrea at the dawn of an urban millennium" for the press, quoting global urbanization statistics from the UNFPA report, describing the UNFPA mandate in this area, documenting urban growth in Eritrea, analysing the causes and consequences of rapid urbanization and describing initiatives to address the challenges posed by this phenomenon undertaken by the Government.

43. In Honduras, UNFPA prepared a report on urbanization issues in the country that was distributed on the occasion of the launch of the *State of World Population 2007* report. In Mauritania, UNFPA also used the occasion of the launch of *State of World Population 2007* to raise awareness about migration and urbanization issues. UNFPA in Pakistan works to highlight the needs of the urban poor and advocate for increased availability of and access to social services for the population in these areas. In the Russian Federation, UNFPA supported the launch of *State of World Population 2007*, which received good media coverage. UNFPA in Rwanda used the occasion of the launch of *State of World Population 2007* to support the preparation of a brochure detailing the situation of urbanization and its relationship to the current trends and characteristics of internal migration in the country, including measures that need to be taken to ensure that the two factors do not continue to pose a major challenge to the country's development effort. The brochure was shared with development practitioners and policymakers. The launch of the report provided an opportunity to raise awareness of urbanization and internal migration challenges at the provincial and district levels. UNFPA in Viet Nam supports improved policy dialogue and advocacy on migration, especially by supporting the parliament in conducting a series of policy advocacy workshops for senior Government officials on migration issues, the effect of current policies on the implementation of migrants' rights and the linkages between migration and poverty reduction.

Other

44. UNFPA has a joint project with the Arab Urban Development Institute to integrate population and poverty reduction policies in development planning and forums. It aims to broaden the information base on poverty reduction and population, raise awareness of and increase policy dialogue on these issues and strengthen regional capacities in the areas of poverty reduction, population and urban development. Activities include a subregional assessment of town experiences in addressing population and poverty and the preparation of a number of papers addressing, inter alia, various aspects of poverty in Arab towns, the recommendations of which will enable city planners, local governments and decision makers to formulate and monitor poverty issues related to urban development.

45. To address the reproductive health implications of rapid urbanization, UNFPA in Bangladesh co-finances the Urban Primary Health Care Project to support the institutionalization and delivery of a full range of reproductive health-care services.

Efforts include capacity-building for programme managers and service providers and the strengthening of service delivery points in the areas of neonatal care, family planning, reproductive tract and sexually transmitted infections, prevention of HIV/AIDS and management of cases of violence against women. The project also supports adolescent and youth-friendly services, strengthens advocacy and behaviour-change communication activities at the clinic and community levels, with special emphasis on slums, ensures proper record keeping, reporting and quality assurance in respect of service delivery at the health-care centres, and seeks to strengthen counselling and the provision of reproductive health information. UNFPA also has a project with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association to increase reproductive health education, make health services readily available, and increase awareness of reproductive rights and gender-related issues among garment workers, most of whom are poor women who migrated from rural areas to metropolitan Dhaka in search of jobs. UNFPA in Burundi supports NGO and mobile clinics and provides health equipment to returned refugees and internally displaced persons in Burundi with its own funds as well as with emergency relief funds provided by donors.

46. In Ethiopia, UNFPA addresses the reproductive health and HIV-related needs of populations displaced by natural disasters and conflicts. Together with the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Turner Foundation, UNFPA provides support to adolescent girls in the rural Amhara region to avoid child marriage, and also provides support to those who are already married. The programme seeks to avert the high rural-urban migration rate of young girls and adolescent women, who often end up as sex workers in big cities and nearby towns. UNFPA also supports a joint project with DFID and the Turner Foundation that targets out-of-school girls aged 10 to 19, most of them migrants, who live away from parents and family members and are unlikely to be reached by current programmes. Initiatives for internally displaced persons provide assistance to people chronically displaced by floods in the Amhara region, including in the areas of HIV prevention; reproductive health information and services; distribution of condoms, clean delivery kits and contraceptives; and training.

47. UNFPA in Sierra Leone has programmes that seek to provide reproductive health care, services and information to various mobile populations, including members of uniformed services, young recruits, private security personnel and peacekeepers; seafarers and fisherwomen and their host communities; and internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees and their host communities. The various programmes provide information on and services for the prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections; HIV/AIDS counselling and testing; peer-education training on HIV, sexually transmitted infections, gender-based violence and human rights; reproductive health literacy; and family planning.

48. A number of UNFPA country offices are not undertaking activities related to urbanization and internal migration at present because these issues are not considered a priority in every country. Some country offices plan to address urbanization and internal migration issues in their country programmes in the near future.

V. Conclusion

49. Urbanization and urban growth are inevitable. Natural increase is already the main source of growth, and rural people will continue to flock to cities in search of better opportunities. Cities will continue to provide more favourable settings to solve social, economic and environmental problems. They will also continue to be more conducive to social change. The challenge is to move away from the negative stereotypes and the negative policies of the past and promote measures that take into account rapid urban growth and the needs of the urban poor.

50. A good strategy for policy and programmatic support to ensure that urbanization and internal migration are taken into account in national development frameworks and poverty reduction strategies should encompass policy dialogue, capacity-building, data collection, research and advocacy. Policy dialogue among and within Governments, the United Nations system, NGOs, civil society and the private sector and advocacy are essential to raise awareness among all stakeholders of the importance of formulating proactive policies to plan for urban growth. Strengthening the national capacity of developing countries to address the challenges of rapid urban growth is essential.

51. There is an urgent need for reliable and timely data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic status and health status for evidence-based policy formulation and programme planning, monitoring and evaluation. There is also a need to encourage and advance culture- and gender-sensitive research to identify emerging issues, provide evidence for effective policies and adopt recommendations. The dissemination of data and research findings and the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices are important components of institutional capacity-building in this area.

52. Urbanization, when accompanied by appropriate policies, can be beneficial for development. Cities are places of opportunity and hope. Migrants generally express a preference for cities over the rural settlements they left behind. The potential benefits of cities far outweigh the disadvantages. Cities offer significant opportunities to enhance development and promote sustainability. Exploiting the potential of urban growth requires a proactive attitude and approach. Urbanization should be an integral part of national and global efforts to reduce poverty. Good governance and sound urban policies can serve to reduce poverty and gender inequality and to promote sustainable development. Future plans must have an approach that integrates cities and rural areas. Both urban and rural development are necessary, and addressing both in an integrated way will provide the best chances for success.